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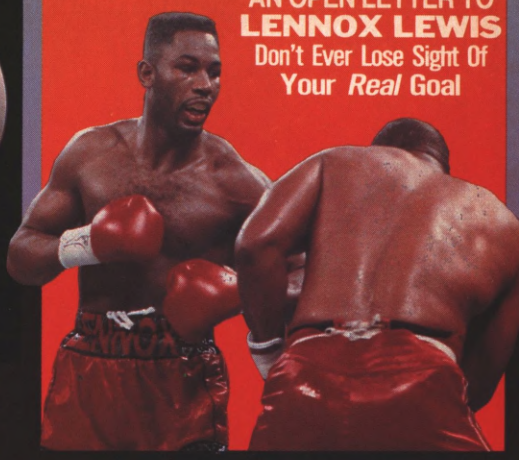
May 1993

The RING

"The Bible Of Boxing"

Battle Of The Legends
...E WILLIAMS vs. PERNELL WHITAKER

AN OPEN LETTER TO
LENNOX LEWIS
Don't Ever Lose Sight Of
Your *Real* Goal

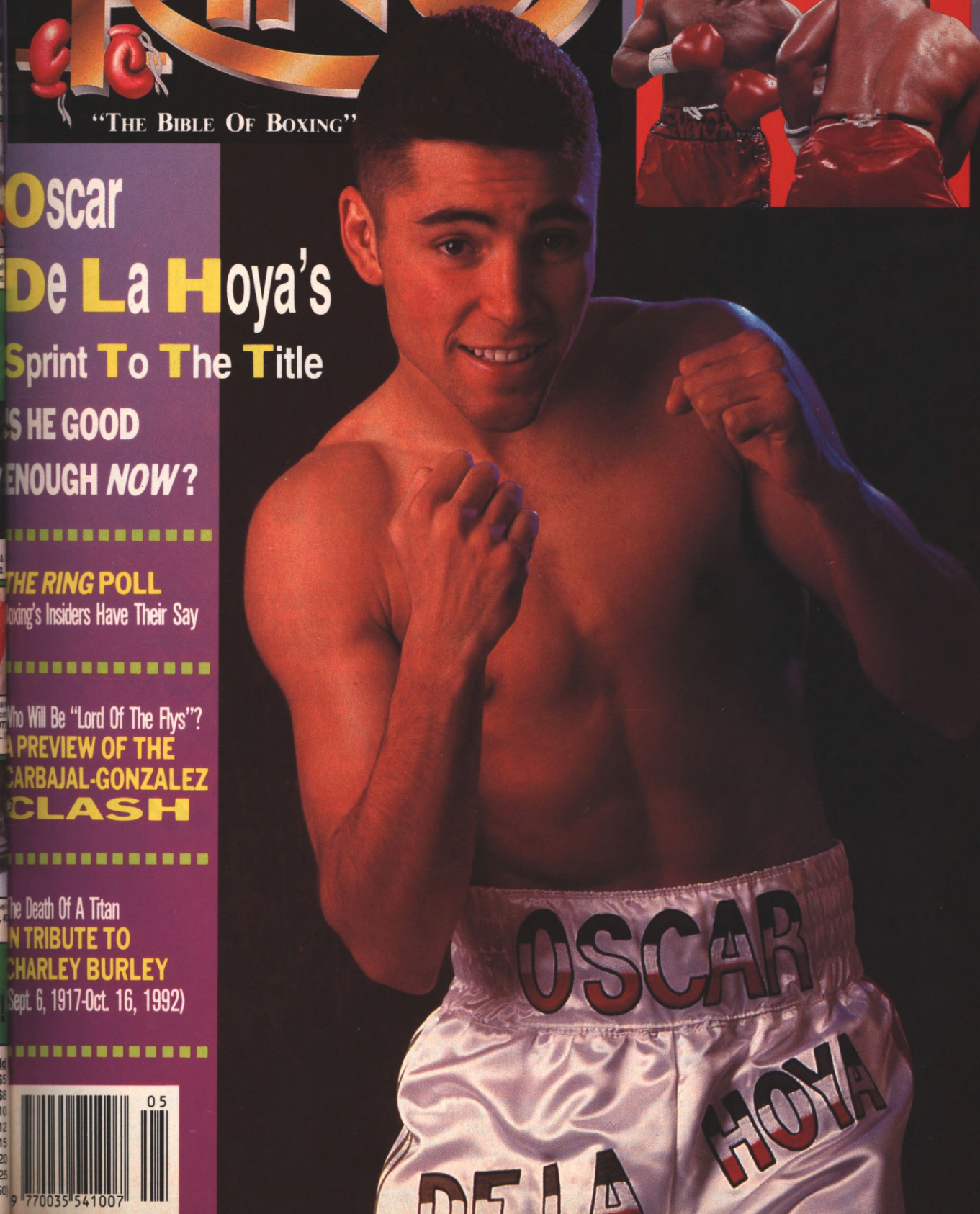


Oscar
De La Hoya's
Sprint To The Title
S HE GOOD
ENOUGH *NOW*?

THE RING POLL
oxing's Insiders Have Their Say

ho Will Be "Lord Of The Flys"?
A PREVIEW OF THE
ARBAJAL-GONZALEZ
CLASH

he Death Of A Titan
N TRIBUTE TO
HARLEY BURLEY
Sept. 6, 1917-Oct. 16, 1992)



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$100 winner

Actual questions

Which of the boxers was not a heavyweight champion in the Olympics?

1) George Foreman
2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

He was the only undefeated heavyweight champion

1) Rocky Marciano
2) Joe Louis
3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

Which man is known as "The Fight Doctor"?

1) Don King
2) Angelo Dundee
3) Ferdie Pacheco
4) Howard Cosell

Where does a rabbit-punch hit?

1) the groin
2) the ears
3) the kidneys
4) the back of the head

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Cover Photo: Oscar De La Hoya By Marc Morrison
Centerfold: Lennox Lewis By Marc. Y. Morris

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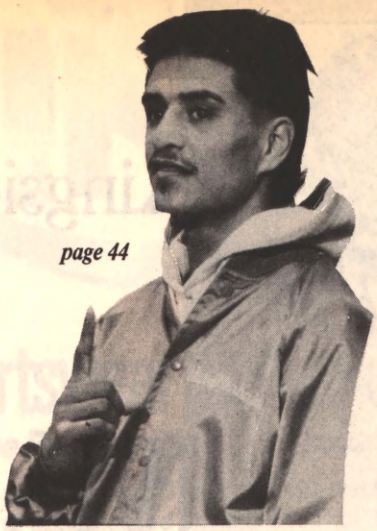
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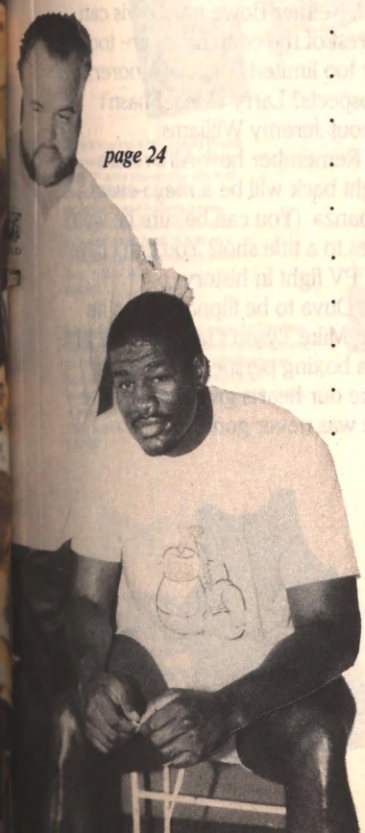
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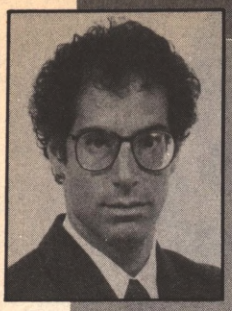


Ringside

Mike Tyson is still in prison. I've never been there (covering a James Scott fight at Rahway doesn't count), so I wouldn't dare suggest that the minimum of two years he'll remain in prison—assuming he is not granted a new trial on appeal—is anything less than an eternity. But judging by heavyweight time, which is faster than real time, Tyson will be out before we know it. Meanwhile, he remains an overwhelming presence *in absentia,* like Muhammad Ali during his exile.

At the start of the '70s, Jimmy Ellis, the WBA champion, was rated behind both New York State champion Joe Frazier and Ali, who hadn't fought since March 1967. Similarly, when Tyson's release is near, Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lewis will be measured not by their inevitable showdown, but by how the winner will match up against Tyson.

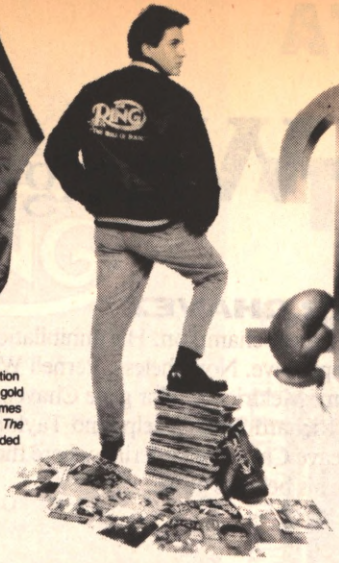
There's no guarantee, of course, that when Tyson is released, Bowe or Lewis will be world heavyweight champion. Who knows, maybe there'll be *three* different titlists by then. Whatever the scenario, the majority of boxing's insiders believes that Tyson will not only again fight for the title, but regain it.

On page 24, you'll find our first *Ring* Poll, in which we asked a cross-section of the boxing community a variety of questions. Among them was "Will Mike Tyson regain the heavyweight title?" I found it fascinating that 57 percent of those polled answered yes. Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised. Neither Bowe nor Lewis can claim the kingdom until one defeats the other. The rest of the contenders are too old (George Foreman), too worn (Evander Holyfield), or too limited (Michael Moorer, Tommy Morrison) to be considered real threats. Prospects? Larry Donald hasn't looked sharp, and it's still too early to get excited about Jeremy Williams.

But it's more than just that. It's Tyson's mystique. Remember how Ali's return against Jerry Quarry was an *event*? Tyson's first fight back will be a *mega-event,* and, regardless of the opponent, a pay-per-view bonanza. (You can be sure he won't fight anyone as tough as Quarry.) And if he advances to a title shot? You don't have to be an industry expert to project it as the biggest PPV fight in history.

After Tyson's conviction, I thought promoter Dan Duva to be flippant when he told the *New York Post,* "The verdict just means that Mike Tyson's fans won't be able to see him fight for a while." Now I think that from a boxing perspective, at least, Duva was right on target. Will Tyson's absence make our hearts grow fonder? Not really, because when he returns, it will seem like he was never gone.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief



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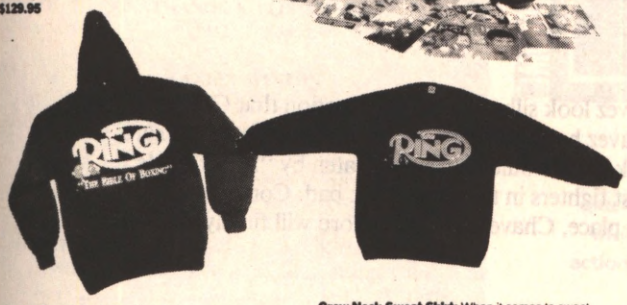

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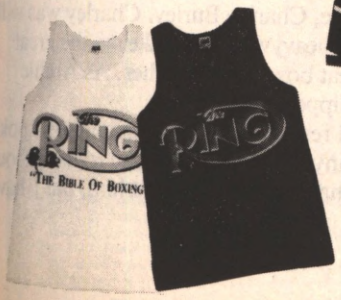

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Come Out Writing

WHITAKER OVER CHAVEZ

Julio Cesar Chavez is a truly great champion. His annihilation of Hector Camacho was most impressive. Nonetheless, Pernell Whitaker is simply too slick for him. Meldrick Taylor gave Chavez more than he could handle without Richard Steele's help, and Taylor is no Whitaker. "Sweet Pea" will leave Chavez wondering where the bruises came from, and where his belt has gone.

GILLIAM D. PHIPPS
Austin, TX

Whitaker will make Chavez look silly and show the nation that Chavez is very overrated. I admit Chavez has some very impressive wins, but I am sure that were he to fight Whitaker, he would be clearly beaten by "Sweet Pea's" ability to make even the best fighters in the world look bad. Come next year, or whenever the fight takes place, Chavez' padded record will finally have a "1" in the loss column.

JONATHAN KAYE
London, England

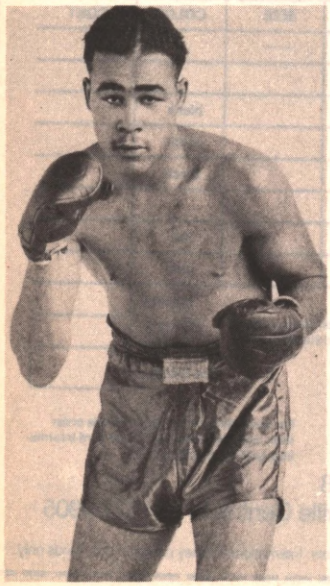
Chavez' fans have been crowing for months about how easily their man is going to beat Whitaker. The first thing they cite is Chavez' strength and punching power. But isn't Azumah Nelson just about Chavez' equal in those departments? And do you remember how easily Whitaker beat this all-time great? Chavez has to hit you clean and often to hurt you. Don't say he'd hit Whitaker clean and often or I'll laugh at you.

Chavez fans also cite Whitaker's lack of power, but since when did a fighter have to hit hard to beat you? Billy Conn and Kid Gavilan were soft hitters, too.

The last misconception is that Whitaker is scared of Chavez. I assure you that neither fighter is afraid of the other. It is Don King who is afraid. Since losing his main source of income (Mike Tyson), King has been protecting Chavez from potentially dangerous matches against Meldrick Taylor and Whitaker. King can't afford to lose any more big fights. Chavez is his last big moneymaker. If he loses, King loses. That's why we may never see this fight. Unless Tyson is freed in time to save King's backside. And his wallet.

DOUGLAS CAVANAUGH
Canoga Park, CA

Whitaker: Headed for Chavez?



Burley: Not forgotten

A CORRECTION

In your "Exclusive Annual Report" (January 1993), you called WBC flyweight titlist Yuri Arbachakov the first Russian-born world champion. Louis "Kid" Kaplan (featherweight) was born in Russia in 1901, and Benny Bass (featherweight and junior lightweight) in 1904. That makes Arbachakov the *third* Russian-born world champion.

TORBJORN SAFVE
Lulea, Sweden

TRIBUTE TO BURLEY

I buy every boxing magazine that comes out, and I can't believe I haven't read one word about the death of one of the greatest fighters of all-time, Charley Burley. Charley was willing to fight anyone from welterweight on up, including heavyweights, and even the great Sugar Ray Robinson wouldn't fight him. He was a great boxer and puncher. As Archie Moore said, Burley was "slick as grease and twice as slippery."

As a former sparring partner of Burley's, the thing I remember most was how soft-spoken and polite he was. I never once heard him badmouth anyone. I was really sad to hear about his death from his wife. Maybe the boxing magazines have forgotten about him, but I haven't.

God bless you, Charley, and rest in peace.

A.J. (BLACKIE) NELSON
Liberal, KS

Editor's Note: The Ring's tribute to Charley Burley appears on page 20. ■

Volume 72, No. 5 May 1993

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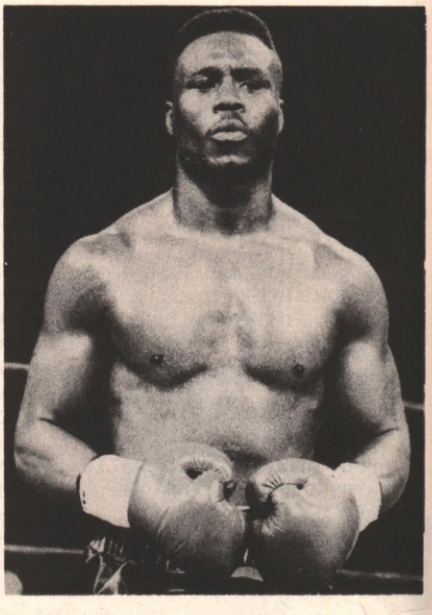
Round One

Taylor: His troubles continue



MORE WOES FOR MELDRICK

Former WBA welterweight champion Meldrick Taylor has more on his mind than his October title fight loss to Crisanto Espana. Tyria Ekwensi, 23, a woman with whom Taylor is said to have had a relationship, was arrested last August and charged with heading a $100-million cocaine and heroin empire that spanned seven states.

Taylor's involvement with Ekwensi is believed to have begun four to six months before her arrest. Taylor's lawyer, Joe Cardona, said the fighter was convinced by Ekwensi that her wealth had been inherited. Ekwensi's attorney stated at a pretrial hearing that she had attended several of Taylor's bouts in Las Vegas and received some expensive gifts from the welterweight, including a Rolex watch.

Authorities have cleared Taylor of any involvement in the drug ring.

Cardona told *The Philadelphia Daily News,* "I've known Meldrick for six years, and he treats his body like a temple, a sanctuary. There's absolutely no way he's into drugs. He passed all the drug tests that were administered after his fights."

Taylor has not spoken to the press since his loss to Espana.

—David Saldarelli

A KING-SIZED PRESENT

Work for Don King and you just might qualify for some spectacular fringe benefits. Sometimes the promoter rewards the winners of his big bouts with cash bonuses. Before last September's Julio Cesar Chavez-Hector Camacho showdown, DK promised a sports car to be named later. Chavez won a unanimous decision and then entered his request—a brand new red Lamborghini.

Assuming the value of the prize is related to the difficulty of the mission, what might King have to fork over if Chavez beats Terry Norris or Pernell Whitaker? Maybe a Lear jet. Or an entire airline. Or perhaps a small third-world country.

Does King still have connections in Zaire?

But did he give him the keys, too?

SOME MARVELOUS CHOICES

Boxing has given something back to a champion who gave all of himself every time he climbed through the ropes. On June 13, the International Boxing Hall of Fame will induct former middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler, as well as nine other fighters and five non-participants.

"I'm real excited about this," Hagler told *USA Today*. "It's like a dream come true."

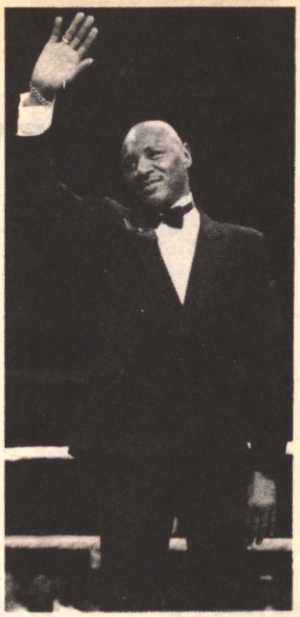
Hagler, 38, reigned from September 1980, when he stopped Alan Minter, to April 1987, when he lost a controversial decision to Sugar Ray Leonard. He made 12 successful defenses and compiled a career mark of 62-3-2 (52).

Joining Hagler from the modern (post-1942) era will be a quartet of former world champions, Flash Elorde (junior lightweight), Joey Giardello (middleweight), Harold Johnson (light heavyweight), and Fritzie Zivic (welterweight).

Elected from the Old-Timers category were heavyweight contender Tommy Gibbons, former middleweight champions Tiger Flowers and Les Darcy, and former light heavyweight titlist Maxie Rosenbloom. The sole inductee from the Pioneer group will be Henry Pearce, an unbeaten British heavyweight who fought from 1803 to 1805.

The five non-participants: Television and radio announcer Don Dunphy, manager, trainer, and broadcaster Gil Clancy, matchmaker Teddy Brenner, referee Arthur Donovan, and manager and historian Jim Jacobs.

Hagler: A Hall of Famer



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The free-standing heavybag

A DYING BREED

Once the mecca of boxing, New York City was long ago replaced by Las Vegas and Atlantic City. However, despite the absence of major fights, the boxing coverage in the city's major daily newspapers never waned. Until now, that is.

In December 1991, the *New York Post's* Michael Marley left to become an attorney and boxing manager. *The Post* has not replaced him, and has no immediate plans to do so. A year after Marley packed his pad and pencil, *The New York Times'* Phil Berger left his job. There is a possibility that he will not be replaced. That leaves the media center of the world with four daily papers, but only two full-time boxing writers, *Newsday's* Wallace Matthews and the *Daily News'* Michael Katz.

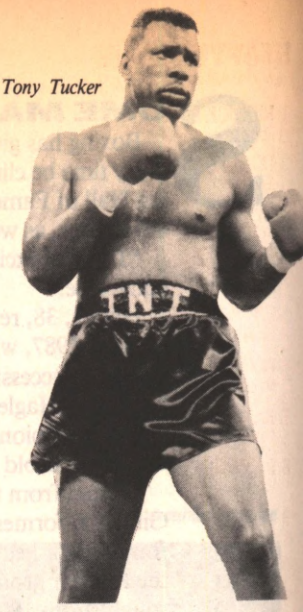
"Boxing is not always going to be on top," said *The City Sun's* Anthony Carter Paige, who was recently elected president of the Boxing Writers Association of America. "But you would never take a beat writer off of the Mets if they became the '62 Mets all over again. Sports editors have to go out and cultivate boxing writers. They have to realize that when boxing does come back, there isn't going to be anyone who can cover it."

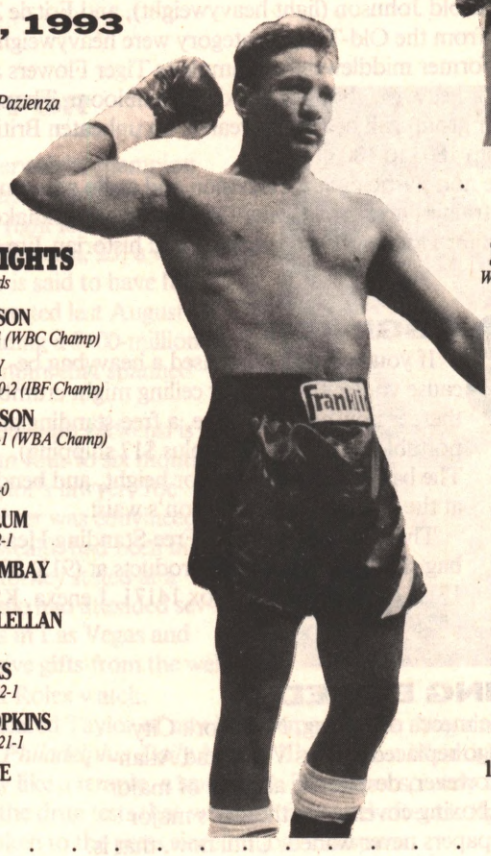
OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Dr. Marvin Goldberg, 71, died of cancer in New York City. Goldberg's long involvement in boxing included stints as a judge, ring announcer, radio broadcaster, supervisor of officials for the New York State Athletic Commission, and manager of Argentine heavyweight contender **Oscar Bonavena** . . . Changing his mind one more time, former heavyweight champion **Evander Holyfield** now says he's coming back. He says he'll be promoted by rap star **Hammer** . . . According to papers filed in a New York federal court, **Rosie Jones**, the 1990 Miss Black America, has reached a settlement with **Mike Tyson**. Jones sued the former heavyweight champion for $100-million, claiming he propositioned her and acted lewdly toward her in a pageant ceremony at the Indiana Black Expo in July 1991 . . . In New York, WBC welterweight champion **Buddy McGirt** has been named as one of the awardees of the second annual Governor's Award for Afro-Americans of Distinction. ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
January 25, 1993


Tony Tucker


Vinny Pazienza

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *46-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *33-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *33-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *20-0*

5 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *43-2-1*

6 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *55-5-1*

7 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *26-2*

8 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *22-1*

9 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *21-1*

10 THOMAS TATE
Houston, TX *26-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *33-3 (WBC Cham*

2 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *39-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *56-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *32-5*

5 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Seattle, WA *28-0*

6 VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY *18-5*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *33-2-1*

8 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *27-1*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *34-1*

10 LAURENT BOUDOUANI
France *22-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *44-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *23-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *32-0*

5 JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX *25-0-1*

6 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *30-2-1*

7 RUBEN D. PALACIO
Colombia *45-11-2*

8 LUISITO ESPINOSA
Philippines *30-6*

9 COLIN McMILLAN
England *23-2*

10 GOYO VARGAS
Mexico *28-3-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *22-0-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY *46-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *31-1*

4 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico *35-6-3 (WBA Champ)*

5 DUKE McKENZIE
England *33-3*

6 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-2-1*

7 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *43-5*

8 RUDY ZAVALA
Rosemead, CA *20-1-1*

9 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *34-3-2*

10 JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico *24-3-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *33-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 ELIECER JULIO
Colombia *22-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico *32-10-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY *27-0*

5 JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan *7-1-1*

6 EDDIE COOK
Las Vegas, NV *18-2*

7 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *35-3-1*

8 JAVIER LEON
Mexico *38-5-2*

9 RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico *13-0*

10 HAROLD MESTRE
Colombia *15-2*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Fort Washington, MD *32-0 (WBA/IBF Champ)*

2 **LENNOX LEWIS**
England *22-0 (WBC Champ)*

3 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *28-1*

4 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *30-0*

5 **TONY TUCKER**
Beverly Hills, CA *48-1*

6 **GEORGE FOREMAN**
Marshall, TX *72-3*

7 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *27-4-1*

8 **RAY MERCER**
Fayetteville, NC *20-1*

9 **TOMMY MORRISON**
Merriam, KS *34-1*

10 **ALEX GARCIA**
San Fernando, CA *29-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *37-2 (WBC Champ)*

3 **AL COLE**
Newark, NJ *21-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *34-3*

5 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *14-2*

6 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *21-3*

7 **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
Las Vegas, NV *18-1-1*

8 **AKIM TAFER**
France *15-3*

9 **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
Argentina *30-3*

10 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *21-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *33-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **VIRGIL HILL**
Bismarck, ND *33-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

5 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *16-1*

6 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *32-3*

7 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *19-0*

8 **TIM HILLIE**
Washington, D.C. *15-0*

9 **EGERTON MARCUS**
Canada *10-0*

10 **RANDALL YONKER**
Mobile, AL *28-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *38-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *30-7 (IBF Champ)*

3 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *34-0*

4 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *18-4-2*

5 **NIGEL BENN**
England *34-2 (WBC Champ)*

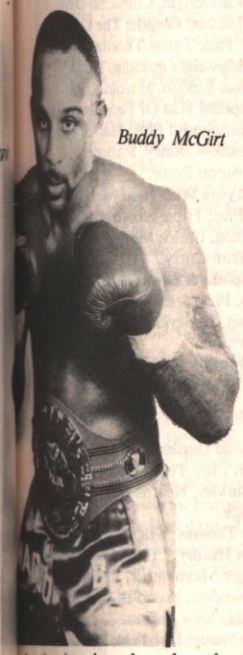
6 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *20-0*

7 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *53-3*

8 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *29-5-1*

9 **FRANK LILES**
N. Hollywood, CA *23-1*

10 **FRANK NICOTRA**
France *30-0*



Buddy McGirt

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *58-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *28-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *34-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *43-0*

5 **MANNING GALLOWAY**
Columbus, OH *49-11-1*

6 **LUDOVIC PROTO**
France *27-0*

7 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-3-2*

8 **STEPHAN JOHNSON**
Brooklyn, NY *21-4-1*

9 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
Houston, TX *32-2-1*

10 **LARRY BARNES**
Mount Vernon, NY *26-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *84-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *31-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *59-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *51-7-2*

5 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *27-1*

6 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *28-2*

7 **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
Mexico *35-0*

8 **HECTOR LOPEZ**
Tarzana, CA *25-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *32-4-1*

10 **KOSTYA TSZYU**
Australia *6-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *26-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *33-17-4 (IBF Champ)*

3 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *41-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RAFAEL RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *35-1*

5 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-2-1*

6 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *28-1*

7 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *28-0*

8 **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
France *42-4-2*

9 **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
Atlantic City, NJ *17-0-1*

10 **SERGEI ARTEMIEV**
Brooklyn, NY *18-1-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *27-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *27-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

5 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *44-2-2*

6 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *33-1*

7 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-5*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *31-2-1*

9 **RENATO CORNETT**
Australia *22-1-1*

10 **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
Argentina *32-1-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *18-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *20-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JULIO BORBOA**
Mexico *14-4 (IBF Champ)*

4 **THALERNGSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *38-3*

5 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *20-1*

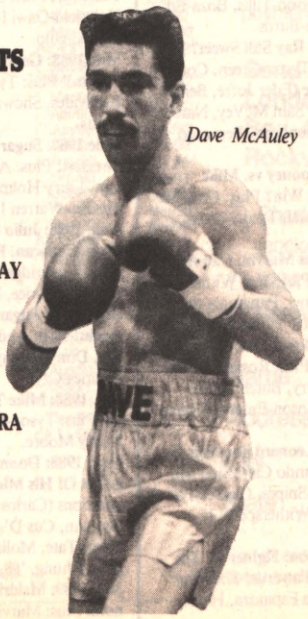
6 **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark *15-0*

7 **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico *22-0*

8 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

9 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *25-2-1*

10 **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
Mexico *21-0*



Dave McAuley

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Japan *14-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
Thailand *13-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *15-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-7-1*

5 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-3-2*

6 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-4*

7 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *18-2*

8 **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *32-3-1*

9 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *23-1*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *22-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *37-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *26-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *35-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *21-3-1*

5 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

6 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

7 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *34-4-3*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *17-1*

9 **SHIRO YAHIRO**
Japan *15-0-1*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTA**
Panama *23-1*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

4 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

5 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

6 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Heavyweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

9 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

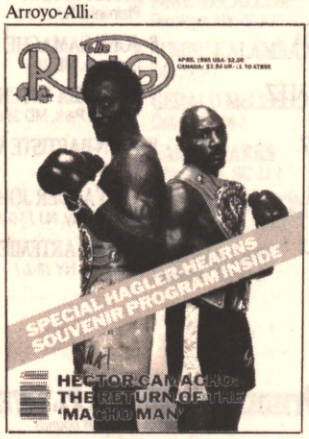
Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.



APRIL 1985

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

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Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

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Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

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April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).

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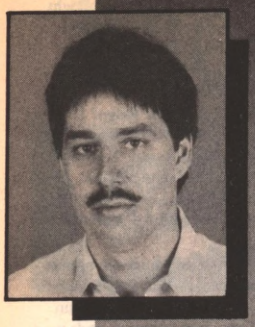


Ryan Out Loud

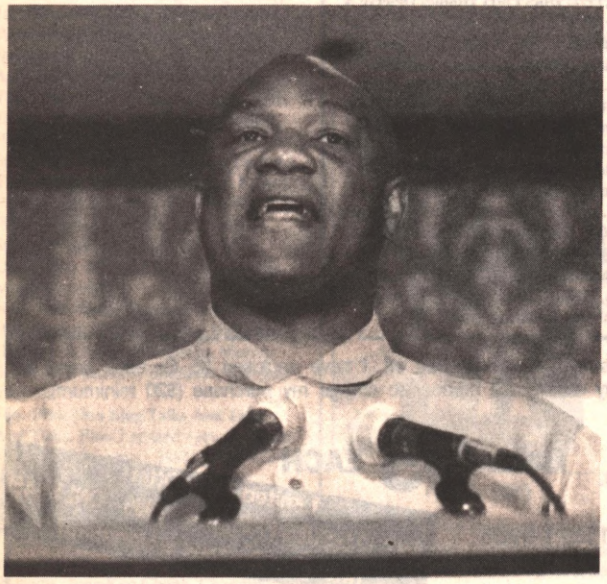
By Jeff Ryan

BOXING, ANYONE?

Enough of this crazy sport, already. I've had it up to here with fossils hanging on to squeeze out a few more paydays, alphabet organizations destroying the game's integrity, tilted playing fields, farce matchups at Caesars Palace, know-it-all fathers who ruin their kids' careers, wacky hairstyles, people who dress like clowns, conflicts of interest, and brutal mismatches. Just how long can tennis keep getting away with this?

Bet you thought boxing's problems were endemic to boxing. Well, as John McEnroe has said to many a line judge, pardon me, but I beg to differ with your call. Pro tennis and pro boxing, two sports that you would think couldn't be more different, actually couldn't be more alike.

There's a fine line between the two, and the line judge sometimes has to squint to even see it. Did you know that Andre Agassi's father boxed for Iran at the 1952 Olympics? Or that Guillermo Vilas often pounded a heavybag to get in shape for his five-setters? Or that Razor Ruddock was an amateur tennis sensation as a teen? Back then, The Razor wore short pants and threatened with his overhead smash. These days, he wears short pants and threatens with a "Smash" over the head. See, fine line.



What does George Foreman have in common with Jimmy Connors? The public wants to hang on to them as long as possible.

In tennis, a matchup of two counterpunchers is usually tedious, you never slug with a slugger, nobody wants to face a southpaw, and most people are convinced that the all-time greats would be overwhelmed by the better-trained, better-coached heavyweights of today. Sound familiar?

Now, take a closer look at some of the boxing problems that tennis faces, and you fight fans may have a lot more respect for a sport you always considered a polar opposite. Or, perhaps, a lot less respect. In either case, it might make you feel a little better to know that the sweet science is just one messed up sport, not *the* messed up sport.

● **Star search:** There's a reason why dinosaurs are leaving their footprints in the rosin on ring canvases *and* trampling the manicured lawns of Wimbledon these days: The younger talents have zero star quality. The public wants Foreman, Holmes, and Duran on their worst days because they're still more charismatic than Whitaker, Hill, and Norris on their best days. Connors, Navratilova, and McEnroe will carry on until they're carried out because Stefan Edberg, Steffi Graf, and Michael Chang can't carry an interview for a solid minute-and-a-half.

Do you remember a single thing Michael Nunn has ever said? Of course not. And nobody can remember Ivan Lendl ever laughing, either. In boxing, George Foreman interrupts his workouts to conduct interviews, while Tracy Patterson ducks the press. In tennis, Connors talks to the crowd *during his matches,* while Pete Sampras is more tightly strung than his racket.

The once-greats sell tickets and get ratings. That's why, in 1992, it was possible for a sports nut to buy the Holyfield-Holmes sideshow on pay-per-view direct from Caesars Palace, and the Connors-Navratilova sideshow on pay-per-view direct from Caesars Palace.

● **Level with us:** Did you ever see a Julio Cesar Chavez fight that's held in Mexico? The ring is about as big as the men's room in a Taco Bell, all the better for Chavez to hunt down his backpedaling prey. In January, the immobile Foreman faced Pierre

Coetzer in a 17-foot ring. Had Big George pinned his rival against a turnbuckle, poor Coetzer would have been removed from the corner with the Jaws of Life. In boxing, the house fighter often gets the playing field tilted his way.

Tennis is no different. The court is a standard size, but there are still advantages saved for the heroes. Forty-year-old Connors doesn't want to play day matches at the U.S. Open because it's too hot, so tournament officials schedule him for night. Edberg gets to play only on center court, where there are the fewest distractions. The top players breeze through the early rounds of a tournament against the softest competition.

If Andre Agassi were a boxer, would he be Hector "Macho" Camacho? Agassi's father boxed for Iran in the 1952 Olympics.

But the highest rating on the shame meter is reserved for the favoritism shown to the U.S. Davis Cup squad. Knowing that the U.S. would be squaring off in 1990 with the Australians, players who grew up on the fast surfaces of grass and hardcourts, American officials decided to play the match on clay. So they trucked into an arena more dirt than Liz Smith uncovers in a month. Better suited to the clay, the Americans thrashed a bunch of Aussies who moved like they were running in waist-high Vegamite.

So let's root, root, root for the home team, if they don't win . . . then, hell, we'll bring in a bigger dumptruck the next time.

● **Father knows worst:** Boxing has had plenty of meddling fathers who never knew when to shut up, calm down, or hand their kid's career over to someone who knew what to do with it. G.L. Van Horn, Eddie Carr, Robert Tucker, and the Seniors tour of Michael Olajide Sr. and Roy Jones Sr. are just a few. But compared to tennis papas, these guys are Ward Cleaver.

King of the obnoxious tennis fathers is Jim Pierce, whose 17-year-old daughter, Mary, is the 13th-ranked woman in the world. Mr. Pierce screams obscenities at the court, tries to intimidate his daughter's opponents, and last year berated Mary so badly after a loss in the Olympics that she ran away crying. Moments later, Pierce crashed his rental car because "I was so mad, I couldn't see straight."

Once, when Mary was 12 and playing another 12-year-old, Pierce sat courtside and urged his daughter to "kill the bitch." At last year's French Open, he punched two fans who rooted against Mary. It's a good thing that Pierce ended up in tennis and not boxing. We can just imagine him taping his fighter's brass knuckles and urging him to win one for Pop.

● **Ignore the rules:** Why doesn't Tyson get disqualified for repeatedly hitting Ruddock low? How come Bowe doesn't get tossed when he practically finishes Coetzer with a shot to the groin? Because referees don't have the guts to banish the bigshots, no matter how blatant their transgressions. It's no different when the punks are slicing serves instead of eyebrows.

John McEnroe was bounced from the Australian Open in 1990, but in 16 years on the tour, it was the *only* time he has been disqualified. And his vulgar behavior on that day didn't even come close to the choicest moments of his often-disgraceful career. No umpire dared toss fan favorite Connors out of the U.S. Open. (One year, Jimbo humiliated one poor umpire by calling him "an abortion" on national television.)

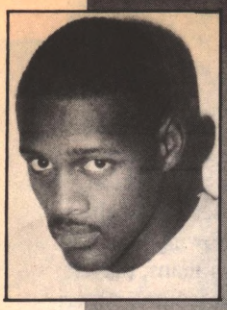
"Bad behavior?" ask the powers that be. "*What* bad behavior?"

● **Learn your alphabet:** This is far too confusing to fully explain, so suffice to say that the ATP, WTA, WPTC, and USTA are tennis' answer to the WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO. They run the game—usually right into the ground.

● **Prima donnas:** Boxing prima donnas: George Foreman handpicks his competition; Sugar Ray Leonard is allowed to compete, against WBC rules, for two titles in the same fight; Riddick Bowe kills off a tournament because he goes back on his word after making it to the finals.

Tennis prima donnas: Monica Seles' opponents complain about her grunting, and she is silenced by the threat of point penalties; Jennifer Capriati wants to turn pro at age 13, so the Women's Pro Tennis Council changes a rule that stipulates a player must wait until age 14; Ivan Lendl complains that the Fuji blimp is in his line of vision while he's serving at the U.S. Open, and officials later have the airship's flight pattern changed.

See, folks, boxing really isn't all *that* bad. Unless James Broad is sitting at ringside and creating a disturbance, rest assured that you'll never see a *boxer* complaining that a blimp is distracting him. ■



New Faces

Coley (right) brawls with Donald Wallace

Derrell Coley

Welterweight

By John Scheinman

PRO RECORD

	1990	
July 21	Derrick Chapman, Washington, D.C.	W 4
Sept. 8	Chi Lars, Washington, D.C.	KO 2
	1991	
May 4	Edwin Quinones, Washington, D.C.	KO 4
July 24	Elvin Battle, Washington, D.C.	KO 2
Aug. 16	Lennell Strohman, Charleston, SC	KO 4
Sept. 21	Bernard Grant, Washington, D.C.	KO 6
Oct. 29	Bernard Grant, Washington, D.C.	W 6
Nov. 15	Marvin Ladson, Roanoke, VA	KO 2
Dec. 15	Mearl Basden, Miami	W 4
	1992	
Jan. 18	Eric Holland, Philadelphia	W 4
April 18	Jarvis McMillan, Alexandria, VA	KO 6
June 4	Leo Edwards, Atlantic City	KO 6
Aug. 20	Don Wallace, Atlantic City	W 6
Oct. 3	Juan Galvan, Washington, D.C.	KO 2
Nov. 29	Wilbert Blaine, Washington, D.C.	KO 3
Dec. 11	Frank Montgomery, New York City	KO 2

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	16	16	0	0	11

If you watch enough boxing, you realize that nearly every fight card has a winner's corner and a loser's corner. So undefeated welterweight Derrell "Too Sweet" Coley surprised Carl Moretti, the supervisor of talent development for Madison Square Garden Boxing, when he asked to fight out of the loser's corner at an August show in Atlantic City.

"I said, 'Carl, which corner is the loser's corner?' He said, 'The blue corner.' I said, 'That's the corner I'm in,' " recalled Coley with a laugh after a workout at Finley's Gym in Washington, D.C. He wanted not only to battle his opponent, but the notion that nobody could win out of the loser's corner. "It messed everybody up," he said. "The referee, everybody."

Coley won that day, a six-round decision over Donald Wallace. And he's won three fights since. With a record of 16-0 (11), an adaptable boxing style, and a knack for knocking opponents through the ropes, Coley has turned more than a few heads (both in and out of the ring), and positioned himself for an assault on the world rankings.

Growing up in Capitol Heights, Maryland, Coley, 22, gravitated toward boxing the way a lot of kids do, worshipping an older brother who fought in the amateurs. From ages nine to 15, despite his mother's encouragement to take up basketball, he fought—and hated it.

"I wanted to be like my brother so bad; it was really just for him," he said. "I didn't like the hard work, getting up, going to the gym. I was still a kid, and I wanted to play with my friends."

Coley's brother Jeffrey, older by two years, eventually got out of the game, but not until winning a junior national title at the Ohio State Fair. Baby brother hung in. When Coley turned 15, Al Scott joined the fighter's longtime trainer, Leonard Langley, a former light heavyweight, in guiding his career.

It was at that point that Coley became serious about the sport. He didn't like boxing, but figured he must not be losing for some reason. It was time to reconcile distaste with potential.

"Boxing is real hard; people don't know how hard it is to box until they've done it," he said. "And I don't like the idea of hitting someone upside the head for nothing, or someone hitting me upside the head. Now it's my job."

Coley blew through the amateur ranks with a mark of 96-4. He won three D.C. Golden Gloves titles, the ABF Potomac Valley title in 1988, and the prestigious Mayor's Cup in 1989. Among his victims were pro prospects Michael Ward and Curtis Peoples. Two of his losses were to top-10 lightweight Sharmba Mitchell and recently retired junior featherweight contender Jemal Hinton.

In 1989, Coley qualified for the Nationals, but couldn't compete because of

(Continued on page 61)

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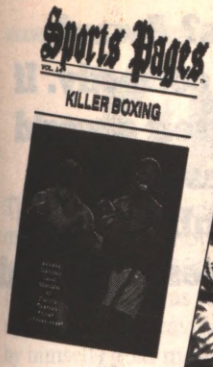

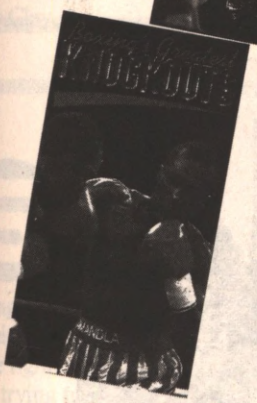

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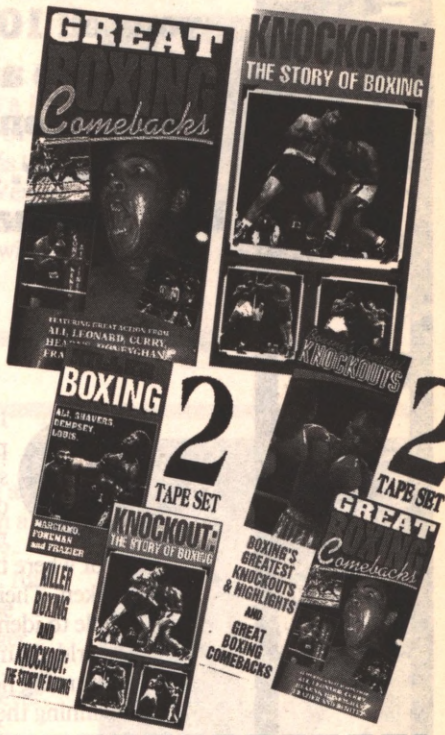

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Test Your Boxing IQ

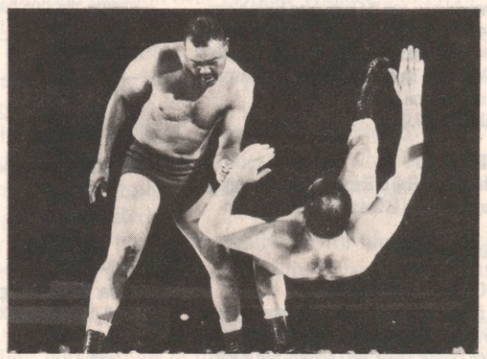
THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1 If you can't place the face, study the crowd and you might figure out where this photo was taken. Then you'll be able to identify this world champion, who is returning home after winning the title.

2

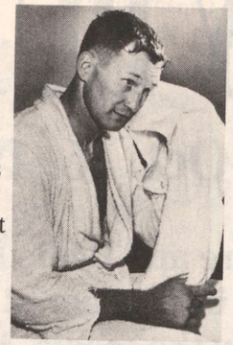
Gorilla Monsoon? Hulk Hogan? Bobo Brazil? Nope. You might be wondering why we're asking you to identify a professional wrestler. It's because in a former life, he was a prizefighter. And a damn good one, too.



3

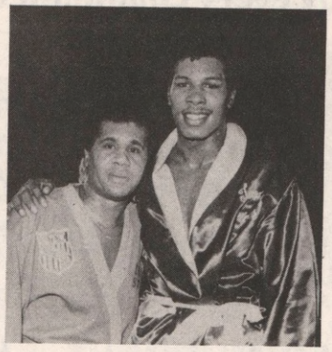
The fighter on the left is Dario Matteoni, who, in December 1990, unsuccessfully fought for the vacant WBC super middleweight title. Lacing 'em up is a former fighter who *never* lost a title bout. And he engaged in 15 of them.

4 The first of our obligatory Muhammad Ali-related photos: This shot was taken in October 1960, a few days before the fighter was to become the first opponent of a heavily hyped (mostly by himself) gold medalist named Cassius Clay.



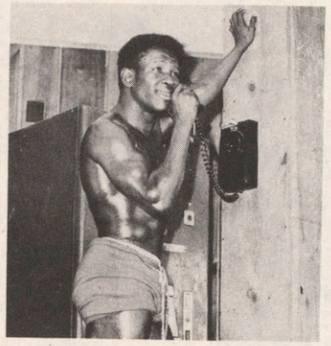
5 Ali, Part II: This is a 1977 photo of Ali with his third wife, Veronica. Name Ali's first, second, and fourth wives.

6 Twelve years ago, Kronk's Emanuel Steward posed with his promising 22-year-old heavyweight protege. Today, the fighter is on the verge of trying to recapture a portion of the world title.



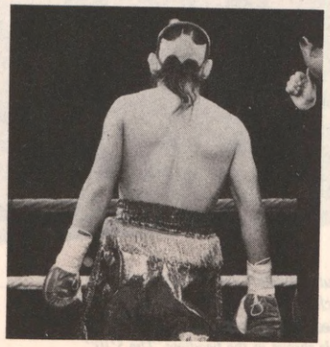
7 As long as we're on a run of heavyweights, this two-time world title challenger fights on at age 33. The truth be told, however, he's past his prime.

8 "That's right, one pie with extra cheese, and one with mushrooms and green peppers." Actually, this marvelously conditioned former triple-crown world champion would never have ordered pizza during training.



9 In the '80s and early-'90s, this Olympic gold medalist became an expert on fleeting fame. He fought for a world title only once, and was stopped in two rounds.

10 No hints here. Or split ends, for that matter. There's only one fighter in the world who has a barber this creative.



ANSWERS:

1) Barry McGuigan; 2) Joe Louis;
3) Carlos Monzon; 4) Tunney Hunsaker;
5) Sonji, Belinda, and Lonnie;
6) Tony Tucker; 7) Carl Williams;
8) Emile Griffith; 9) Paul Gonzales;
10) Jorge Paez

The Death Of A Titan

IN TRIBUTE TO CHARLEY BURLEY

(Sept. 6, 1917-Oct. 16, 1992)

The man whom both Archie Moore and Eddie Futch called the best fighter they ever saw passed away in October at the age of 75. Sadly, news of his death was ignored by the media, just like his endless challenges had been ignored by every champion of his time

Charley Burley will always be remembered as a kind of art form, a master of boxing who was much too good for his own good. He started out as a lightweight in the '30s, grew into a welterweight, and bloomed as a middleweight. A warm, surprisingly gentle man, Burley, while often frustrated and disillusioned by the reluctance of world-class fighters to face him, rarely expressed his feelings, and never cast aspersions at those who avoided him. Not so, however, with those who guided his career, all of whom publicly ridiculed targeted foes like Sugar Ray Robinson, Billy Conn, Steve Belloise, and Freddie "Red" Cochrane.

In his 14-year career (1937-1951), Burley had 87 fights. He was never knocked down, much less stopped. Giving away 50 or 60 pounds posed no problem for the Pittsburgh master. In 1951, at age 34, Charley toyed with, before knocking out, the light heavyweight champion of South America, brave Pillar Bastedis. In a postfight interview, he said, "I suppose I can now honestly say I am a champion."

He could have honestly said the same thing long before.

Minneapolis Daily Times

SPORTS

Monday, March 9, 1942 Page Fifteen

BURLEY'S REACH ONLY MATCH—

Turner 73 Lbs. Heavier

Standing solidly behind Burley in his never-ending quest for quality foes, the Minnesota State Athletic Commission authorized him to fight "any opponent at any weight, including heavyweight." The result was a match between Charley and big Jay D. Turner, a Texan who had recently held his own against Billy Conn. This picture was published in the Minneapolis Daily Times a few days before the fight. The actual weight difference was 68½ pounds, not the 73 pounds shown in the headline. The 5'10" Burley weighed 150 pounds; the 6'4" Turner 218½. The winner: Burley by TKO in round six.

This letter was sent to ***The Ring*** *Editor Nat Fleischer in March 1942 by Tommy O'Loughlin, matchmaker of the Minneapolis Boxing Club and adviser to Burley. It illustrates the bitter frustration involved in the endless, often futile attempts to induce world-class opposition into the ring with the Pittsburgh boxing master.*

Seating Capacity 14,000 — The Minneapolis Armory

MINNEAPOLIS BOXING CLUB
500 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota
BRIDGEPORT 6520

Tommy O'Loughlin, M...

March 3, 1942.

Dear Nat:

I wrote to you from the coast and asked you about the front page of your magazine for Burley but so far haven't heard anything, I'd appreciate hearing him you if the page is available. On top of that we want to go along and take out a managers address for the next issue.

Burley fought Williams here last Thursday and it was sensational all the way, as Illiams can really box and he did everything known in the book to keep from getting knocked out by Charley, and the cash customers liked it very much.

I'm having a toughtime getting anyone to fight the fellow and I8m offering good money. I offered Fritzie Zivic $4,000.00 with option 35% after he was beaten at Chicago the other night--Garcia wouldn't come in with Charley for $3,500.00 and points--Steve Belloise's manager hung up on me when I called long distance for the match.

What the hell does a man have to do to get them to fight, you offer the 50% and still they wouldn't take it, everyone one is broke and hollering but still they will not fight him for good money. This is no bull I really made the offer, and today I wired Conn offering him $10,000.00 to fight Burley and can't get an answer from Johnny Ray.

The Minn State Athletic Comm. gave me dispensation to make matches for Burley in any wieght including the heavyweights. What the hell is the fight game for if they wont fight for money. I'm goig to try for lightheavyweights and if I run out of them I'll go into the heavyweights. What is the difference, BURLEY will stiffen most of the heavies anyway. Anyone he can get a belt at he will knockout.

When I was on the coast Burley fought the BIG BOY HOGUE and knocked him out in the 6th. but it never made the wire as they kept it off. but I have the clippings of the fight.

Too bad they push good fighters around as he would be a sensation in your city, but they keep hollering about no fighters mit's all bull, NAT.

Let me hear from you, and keep your eye on BURLEY as you will hear lots more about the fellow soon, in f ast company. Don't pass this fellow up as he has the goods to deliver.

Regards,

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When I was on the Coast, Burley fought Big Boy Hogue and knocked him out in the 6th. But (the result) never made the wire, as they kept it off. But I have the clippings of the fight.

Too bad they push good fighters around, as he would be a sensation in your city (New York). But they keep hollering about (that there are) no fighters (around). It's all bull, Nat.

Let me hear from you, and keep your eye on Burley, as you will hear lots more about the fellow soon, in fast company. Don't pass this fellow up, as he has the goods to deliver.

Regards,

(Signed) **Tommy O'Loughlin**

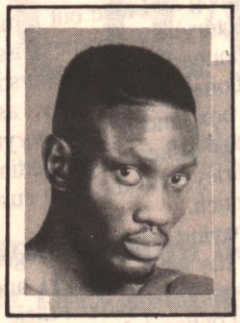
Charley Burley at his prime in 1942. Considered unbeatable by most experts, he never was allowed a shot at a world championship. In 1945, he outclassed Oakland Billy Smith in San Francisco and was rewarded with his biggest purse, a mere $3,150.

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Pernell Whitaker

Norfolk, Virginia
Career: 1984-present
31-1 with 15 kayos



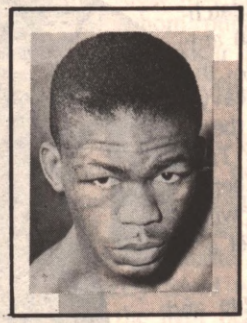
Since 1990, "Sweet Pea" has been battling Julio Cesar Chavez for the unofficial title of best fighter in boxing. He won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics, and has been dominant as a pro, with his only loss a disputed decision to Jose Luis Ramirez in March 1988.

The 5'5½" southpaw relies on speed and defense. His chief weapons: an outstanding jab, a straight left, and an underrated body attack.

In February 1989, Whitaker won the IBF lightweight title with a one-sided decision over Greg Haugen. He added the WBC belt by shutting out Ramirez in August 1989, and unified the title with a first-round kayo of WBA champion Juan Nazario in August 1990. A lack of suitable opposition forced a move to 140 pounds, where he continued his dominance by easily dethroning IBF champion Rafael Pineda. As we went to press, he was scheduled for yet another jump in weight; on March 6, he was scheduled to challenge WBC welterweight champion Buddy McGirt.

Ike Williams

Brunswick, Georgia
Career: 1940-1955
123-25-5 with 60 kayos

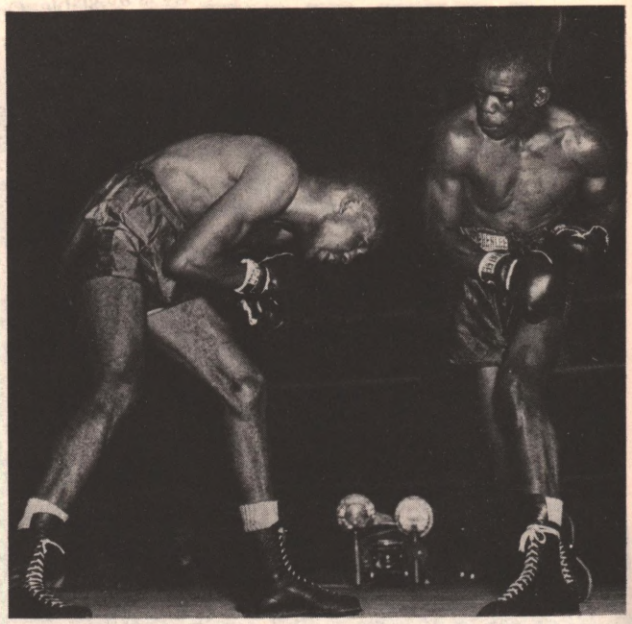


Williams was among the best fighters of the '40s, and one of the greatest lightweights ever. A consummate pro, the 5'9½" boxer-puncher learned his craft in the clubs of New Jersey. He fought 70 bouts before challenging for his first world title, and in April 1945, stopped Juan Zurita in two rounds to capture the NBA 135-pound crown.

In August 1947, Williams battered New York champion Bob Montgomery and scored a sixth-round stoppage to gain universal recognition as world champion. He retained the title five times before losing it in May 1951 to huge underdog Jimmy Carter. Between defenses, Williams frequently engaged in non-title bouts at welterweight. His last fight was a ninth-round kayo of former lightweight king Beau Jack.

Williams' strengths were a hard jab, a crunching straight right, and a subtle defense. Until his title-fight loss to Carter, he had been stopped only twice in 136 pro fights.

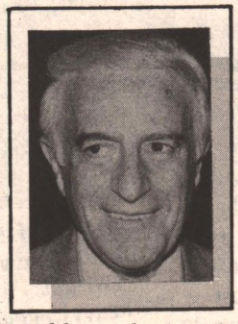
Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



In August 1947, Ike Williams won the undisputed lightweight crown by ignoring a cut over his left eye and kayoing archrival Bob Montgomery in six rounds.

TEDDY BRENNER

Although both guys dominated their eras, this is an easy one to pick. Being a southpaw is an advantage for most boxers. Whitaker is an excellent lefty. He moves well in both directions and doesn't get hit that often.

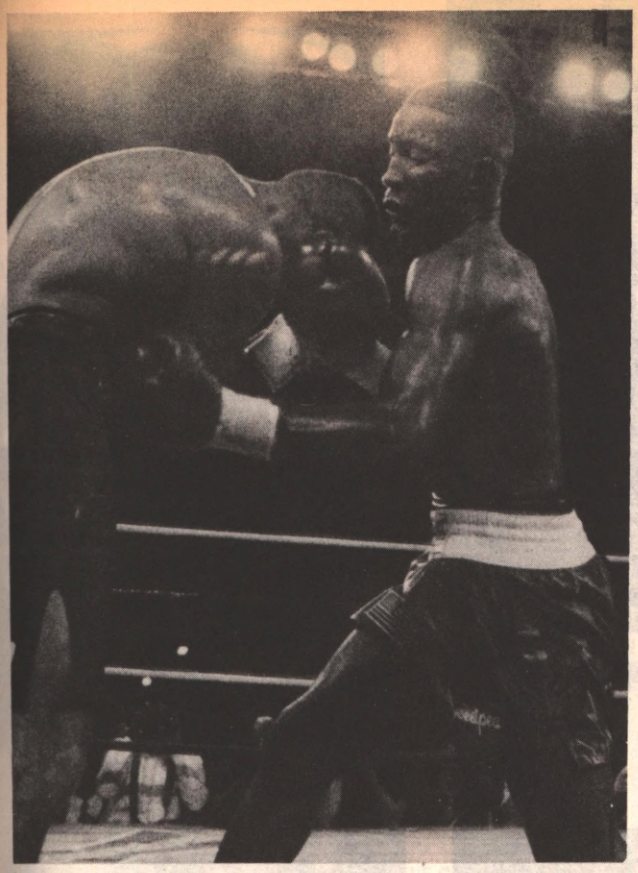


His lack of power does not make for an exciting fight, especially when you consider that he was so superior to his opposition when he was the lightweight champion.

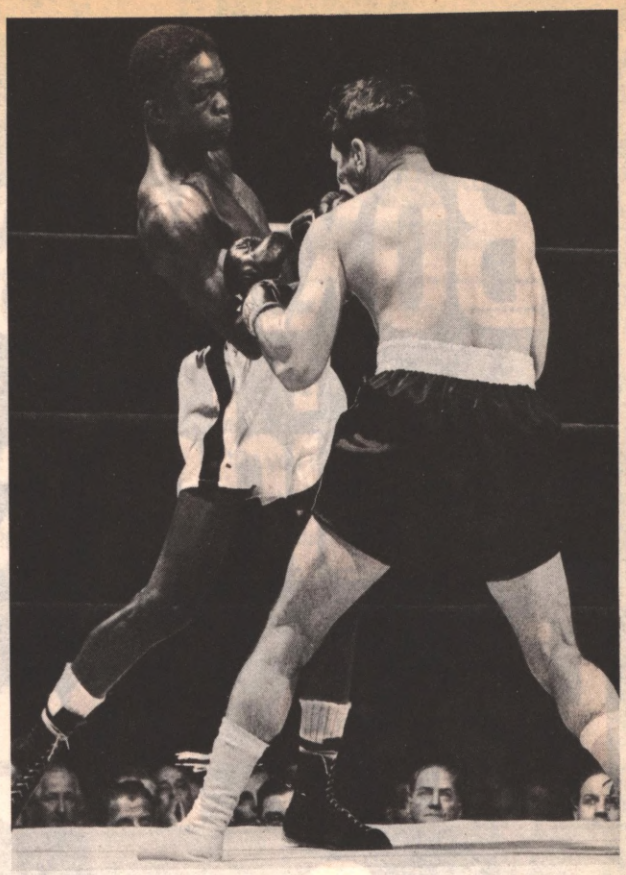
Ike Williams was a complete fighter. When he was in his prime, he fought everybody there was to fight. And there were much better fighters in that era. He was a good boxer, and he could punch. Another thing that set him apart from most lightweights was his overall physical strength. He physically dominated his opposition.

Whitaker would box and give a lot of lateral movement, and Williams would be the stalker. Whitaker is fast, but he wouldn't be able to keep Ike off of him for long. Williams would attack the head and body. As the rounds went by, Whitaker would be slower and slower—and easier to hit. Whitaker is good, not great. Williams *beat* great fighters, even welterweights like Kid Gavilan and Johnny Bratton. He'd wear Whitaker down, and wear him out by the 10th round.

Teddy Brenner made matches for, among other promoters, Madison Square Garden and Bob Arum. He is considered among the greatest matchmakers in history.



As lightweight champion, Whitaker was almost unbeatable. In July 1991, his body attack wore down Poli Diaz, and "Sweet Pea" took a 12-round decision.

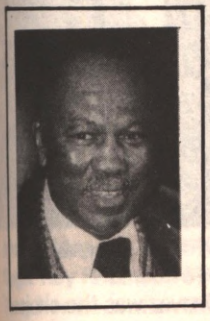


Williams was past his prime but still dangerous when, in January 1951, he kayoed Argentina's Jose Gatica in one round. Four months later, he lost the title.

BOB MONTGOMERY

No one can question that these were easily the best of their eras. Whitaker is faster than any lightweight in recent memory. He's got quick hands and feet, and good reflexes. He hardly ever gets touched. Who are the fighters that have tested him? There are none. That's because he's so good compared to today's competition. Azumah Nelson is a good fighter, and he was supposed to test Whitaker, but it was no contest. Whitaker has yet to be in a *real* fight.

Williams and Tony Canzoneri were the two greatest lightweights I ever saw. Ike could do it all. He was an excellent boxer, and he punched well with both hands. His defense was good, too. He could wear a guy down or take him out with one punch. There was no junior lightweight division then, so every fighter over 126 pounds fought at lightweight. Ike beat all of them, and he could beat welterweights as well.

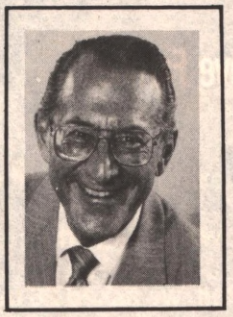


Whitaker would start off fast. He'd move from side to side, giving angles. He'd have to use every trick in the book. Williams might be confused for a while, but not that long. Once Ike would figure Whitaker out, it wouldn't take long before he would end it. I don't know what round, but Williams would definitely stop Whitaker.

Bob Montgomery was a two-time New York State world lightweight champion. He split a pair of bouts with Ike Williams.

BILL CAYTON

This is a very interesting matchup. But whenever you have fighters from eras this far apart, you have to take into consideration the path each man traveled to greatness. Whitaker, like most athletes today, has taken advantages of modern training. He is a brilliant boxer and tactician. Although he's been hit hard a few times, he's never really been tested. But that is usually said about all undefeated fighters.



Williams was one of the tougher fighters in a very tough era. Physically, he was stronger than he looked. And he punched extremely well. He had lots of his toughest fights before he even won his title.

Whitaker's plan would be to stay up on his toes and box. He couldn't stand and trade with Williams. A good fighter can get to Whitaker with right hands. I tried to get a fight made with Whitaker for Edwin Rosario when Edwin was still at the top of his game. I felt that Rosario could hurt him and take him out with the right, which is what Williams would do.

It would be a battle of wills, and Williams' was stronger. If Whitaker could avoid getting tagged, he would win a decision. But I don't think that would happen. Williams by kayo.

Bill Cayton is the manager of heavyweight contender Tommy Morrison and, as president of Big Fights Inc., owns the world's largest collection of fight films. ■

THE RING POLL

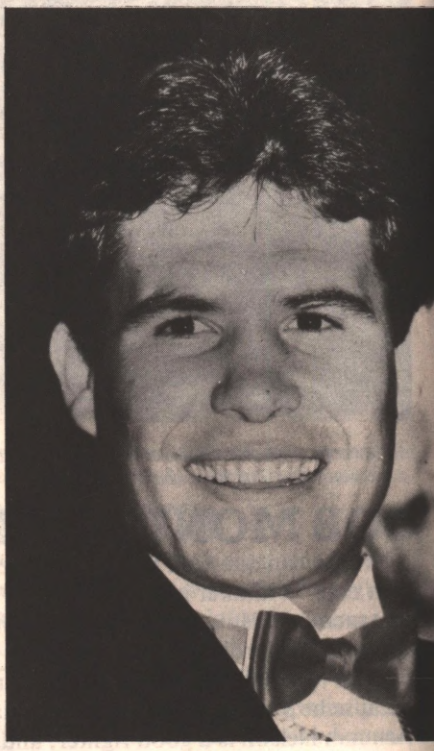
Boxing's Insiders Have Their Say

Compiled By Steve Farhood

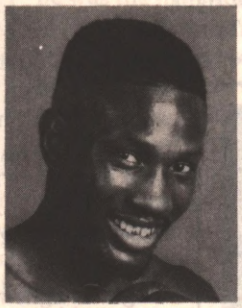
What does boxing think about boxing? In December, *The Ring* mailed out 125 ballots worldwide in an effort to secure some answers. In the first *Ring* Poll, we asked 26 questions of a cross-section of the sport: world champions and clubfighters, managers and trainers, referees and judges, ring announcers and cutmen, journalists and TV announcers, matchmakers, promoters, and state commissioners, publicists and photographers, and anyone else who contributes to the game. We found their answers to be quite revealing.

THE BEST FIGHTER, POUND FOR POUND, IN THE WORLD IS:

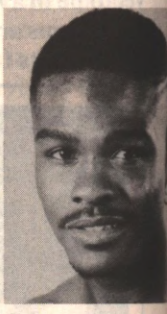
Julio Cesar Chavez	59%
Pernell Whitaker	14%
Buddy McGirt	7%
Terry Norris	6%
Others	14%



Julio Cesar Chavez

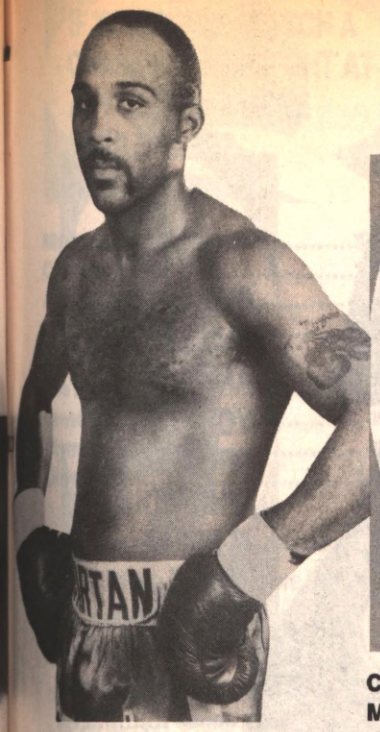


Pernell Whitaker



Terry Norris

Surprised that Chavez was the choice on only six of every 10 ballots? The top four was predictable, but WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe received only one vote. His title-winning victory over Evander Holyfield was dandy, but the message is obvious: He'll have to whip WBC champion Lennox Lewis before he's rated with the more established titlists.



Buddy McGirt

WHO WOULD WIN A FIGHT BETWEEN JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ AND BUDDY McGIRT?

Chavez 62%
McGirt 38%

Chavez at welterweight? No problem. As we went to press, McGirt was scheduled to defend the WBC 147-pound crown against Whitaker. Our guess: If we poll boxing's insiders concerning the result of the McGirt-Whitaker winner vs. Chavez, the answers will be much closer to 50-50.

WHO WOULD WIN A FIGHT BETWEEN CHAVEZ AND PERNELL WHITAKER?

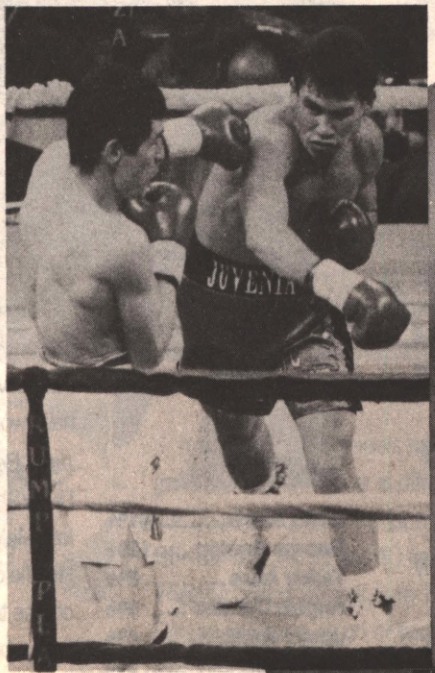
Chavez 78%
Whitaker 22%

Overwhelming support for "J.C. Superstar." Perhaps a more relevant question would have been, "Do you think Chavez and Whitaker will ever fight?" What we don't understand: If a head-to-head meeting between numbers one and two is perceived to be a clear-cut victory for Chavez (remember, the fighters compete in the same weight class), why did he receive only 59 percent of the Best Fighter vote?

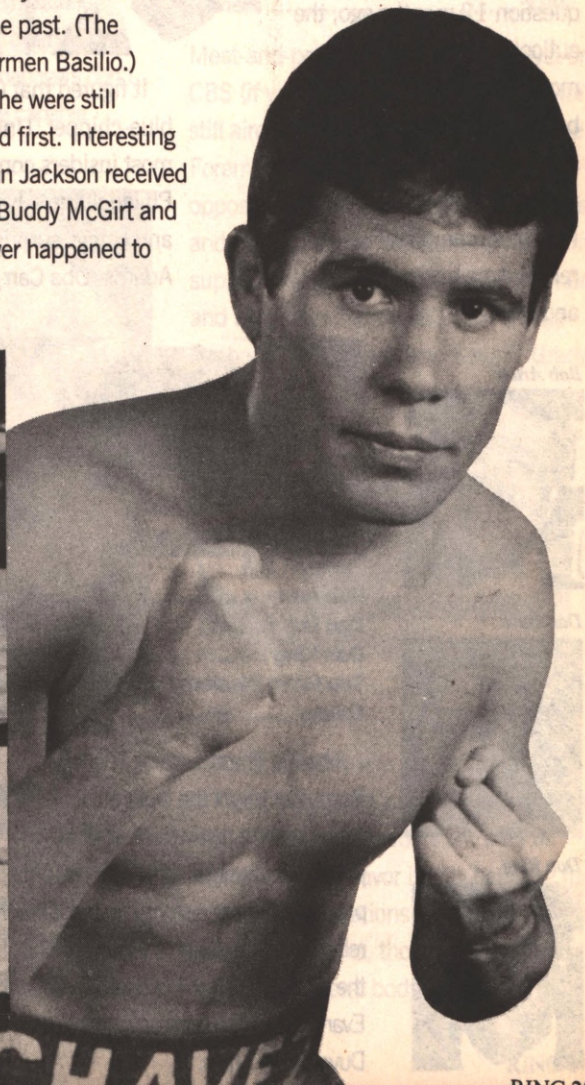
IF YOU COULD WATCH THE FIGHTS OF ONLY ONE FIGHTER, WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Julio Cesar Chavez 14%
Mike Tyson 11%
Muhammad Ali 9%
Roy Jones 6%
Buddy McGirt 6%
Riddick Bowe 5%
Iran Barkley 5%
Sugar Ray Robinson 5%
Terry Norris..... 3%
Pernell Whitaker..... 3%
James Toney..... 3%
Michael Moorer..... 3%
Others 27%

We worded this question somewhat vaguely to see how many insiders would name fighters from the past. (The responses included Jimmy Slattery and Carmen Basilio.) Tyson's strong finish hardly shocked us; if he were still fighting, he undoubtedly would have placed first. Interesting that big bombers like Nigel Benn and Julian Jackson received only single votes, while classic boxers like Buddy McGirt and Pernell Whitaker made the top 10. Whatever happened to bloodlust?



Chavez crushes Kyung Duk Ahn



WOULD YOU DESCRIBE BOXING'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS HOPELESS; CLOUDY; STATUS QUO; PROMISING; SHINING?

Hopeless 5%
Cloudy 33%
Status Quo 29%
Promising 33%
Shining 0%

Seems the glass is somewhere between half-empty and half-filled. Just a guess, but had we asked this question 12 months ago, the outlook would have been more pessimistic. That was before the emergence of Roy Jones, Oscar De La Hoya, and especially Riddick Bowe. Now if we can only reintroduce boxing to CBS and NBC.

Roy Jones

Oscar De La Hoya

Ivan Robinson

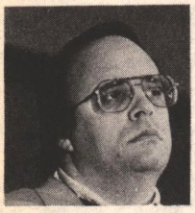
IF YOU COULD BUY STOCK IN ANY ONE YOUNG PROSPECT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Oscar De La Hoya..30%
Roy Jones 21%
Ivan Robinson 5%
Lonnie Bradley..... 3%
Shannon Briggs 3%
Jeremy Williams..... 3%
Kostya Tszyu..... 3%
Others 32%

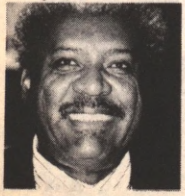
It figured that Olympic gold medalist De La Hoya would be declared a bona fide blue-chipper. Unbeaten middleweight Jones would have received more votes, but most insiders consider him a contender, and no longer a prospect. That Philadelphia's Ivan Robinson topped '92 classmates Raul Marquez, Larry Donald, and Briggs surprised us. Some of the others mentioned: Bernard Hopkins, Bones Adams, Oba Carr, John Bray, and Felix Trinidad.

Bob Arum

Dan Duva



Don King



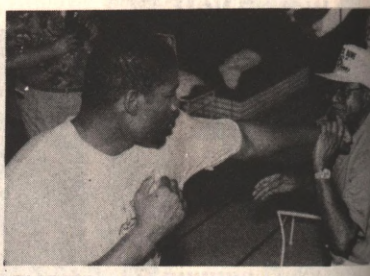
BOXING'S BEST PROMOTER IS:

Bob Arum 35%
Dan Duva.....23%
Don King 14%
The Great Western Forum 4%
Others 24%

The Big Three remains The Big Three, but might the order of finish have been different had we asked those polled to name boxing's most *powerful* promoter? King's slump is undoubtedly related to Mike Tyson's inactivity, and the recent losses of Meldrick Taylor and Evander Holyfield probably dropped Duva below Arum.

BOXING'S BEST TRAINER IS:

Eddie Futch.....41%
George Benton 12%
Teddy Atlas 6%
Angelo Dundee 6%
Joey Fariello 4%
Kevin Rooney..... 3%
Jackie McCoy..... 3%
Others 25%



Riddick Bowe with Eddie Futch

Futch, who capped a marvelous career by guiding Riddick Bowe to the heavyweight title, might also have won a vote for best trainer of *all-time*. Benton, head trainer of the Lou Duva/Shelly Finkel stable, recently lost Meldrick Taylor and Evander Holyfield, but remains the odds-on choice to succeed Futch. That the young but highly respected Atlas tied Dundee for third place speaks well for the future.

IF YOU COULD WATCH A CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT AT ANY VENUE, WHERE WOULD IT BE?

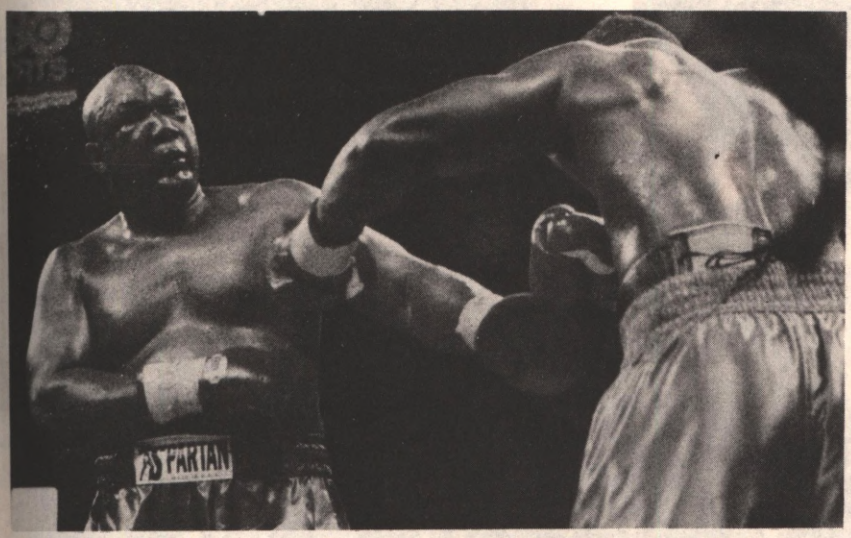
Madison Square Garden	37%
Caesars Palace	17%
Anywhere in Las Vegas	6%
Blue Horizon	6%
Albert Hall	4%
The Mirage	4%
Great Western Forum	4%
Olympic Auditorium	4%
Others	18%

Over the past 10 years, Madison Square Garden has held more big tennis matches than title fights. Nonetheless, it remains the venue of choice, with Caesars Palace placing a strong second. Predictably, no one named the Atlantic City Convention Center or Trump Plaza or Resorts International. In fact, there was a whopping one generic vote for Atlantic City. One sour puss actually voted for "home."

WHILE NO ONE WOULD DESCRIBE THE BUSINESS OF BOXING AS CLEAN, DO YOU THINK THERE ARE STILL FIXED FIGHTS?

Yes	49%
No	51%

And we thought it was the *outsiders* who helped perpetuate boxing's sleazy image. Does it count as a fixed fight, some insiders wanted to know, if a promoter imports a consistent loser to fall against a house favorite? No, it doesn't, assuming the loser, no matter how overmatched, gives a legitimate effort. The overriding sentiment: Promoters and managers don't need fixed fights if they have capable matchmakers.

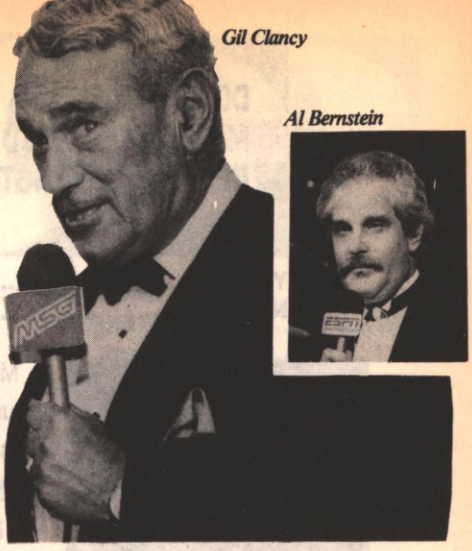


Foreman is pummeled by Alex Stewart

SHOULD BOXING HAVE A MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE?

Yes	38%
No	62%

It isn't wise, the insiders say, to generalize. Every fighter is different; there are 25-year-olds who are far more worn than 35-year-olds. As for the 40-year-olds, imagine boxing without Larry Holmes and George Foreman. Good or bad? It all depends on your perspective.



Gil Clancy

Al Bernstein

WHO IS THE BEST BOXING ANALYST ON TELEVISION?

Gil Clancy	53%
Al Bernstein	17%
Alex Wallau	9%
Others	21%

Meat-and-potatoes Clancy, an analyst on CBS (if you remember when that network still aired boxing) and MSG, and George Foreman's backup on HBO, obliterated the opposition. ESPN's dependable Bernstein and ABC's intense Wallau received some support. Virtually shut out were Foreman and Larry Merchant (HBO), Dr. Ferdie Pacheco (Showtime), and Sean O'Grady (USA).

DO YOU SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL OR FEDERAL BOXING COMMISSION?

Yes	68%
No	32%

Many of those who answered affirmatively added a comment that began with, "But . . . " Insiders are wary of intervention and favor it only because the alphabet organizations abuse their power. On the other hand, those opposing a national or federal body did so emphatically.

DO YOU THINK MIKE TYSON RAPED DESIREE WASHINGTON?

Yes 57%
No 43%

Desiree Washington

Many felt this was an unfair question. Perhaps the totals suggest that the post-trial publicity hasn't damaged Washington's credibility as much as Team Tyson would like us to believe. Regardless, it would be interesting to compare the results of a poll conducted immediately after the trial with these.

WILL MIKE TYSON FIGHT AGAIN?

Yes 98%
No 2%

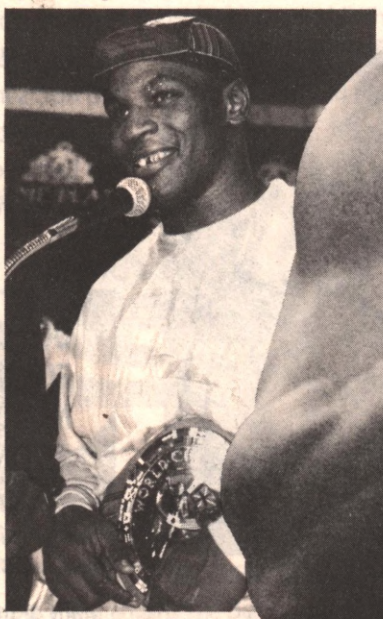
If Tyson is released on schedule, he'll be only 28 or 29. No matter what mathematical formula you apply, the former champion will still be 17 years younger than George Foreman. And if you believe HBO's hype, by 1995, Big George should just about be reaching his prime.

Tyson hammers Razor Ruddock

WILL MIKE TYSON REGAIN THE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE?

Yes 47%
No 36%
Chose Not To Respond 17%

Tyson on top

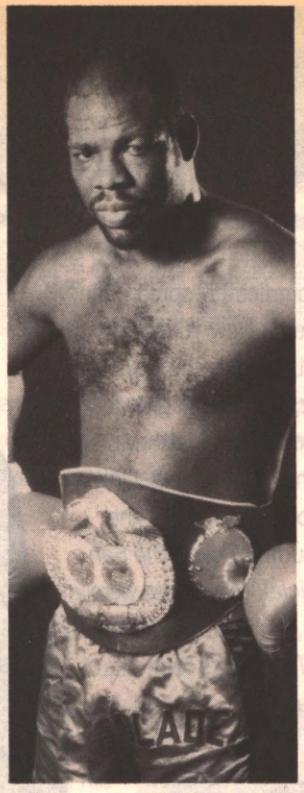


This vote surprised us more than any other; we would have guessed a 60-40 split the other way. A stay in prison? No big deal. The majority of insiders believe that when Tyson is released, he'll mow down Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, or whomever else stands in his path. One thing's for sure: 100 percent will be watching.

IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO LIST ALL OF BOXING'S CHAMPIONS (WBA, WBC, AND IBF), ABOUT WHAT PERCENTAGE DO YOU THINK YOU COULD NAME?

0-20	13%
21-40	11%
41-60	37%
61-80	20%
81-100	19%

Okay, let's see . . . Wilfredo Vasquez is the WBA junior featherweight champion, or is that super bantamweight? Or is it Davey Vasquez? We suspect that the 19 percent who claimed they could list at least four of every five champions must have a system, like the people who can name all 50 states inside of two minutes. One thing's for sure: If there were only eight or 10, or even 12 champions, insiders would be too embarrassed to admit they couldn't list them all.

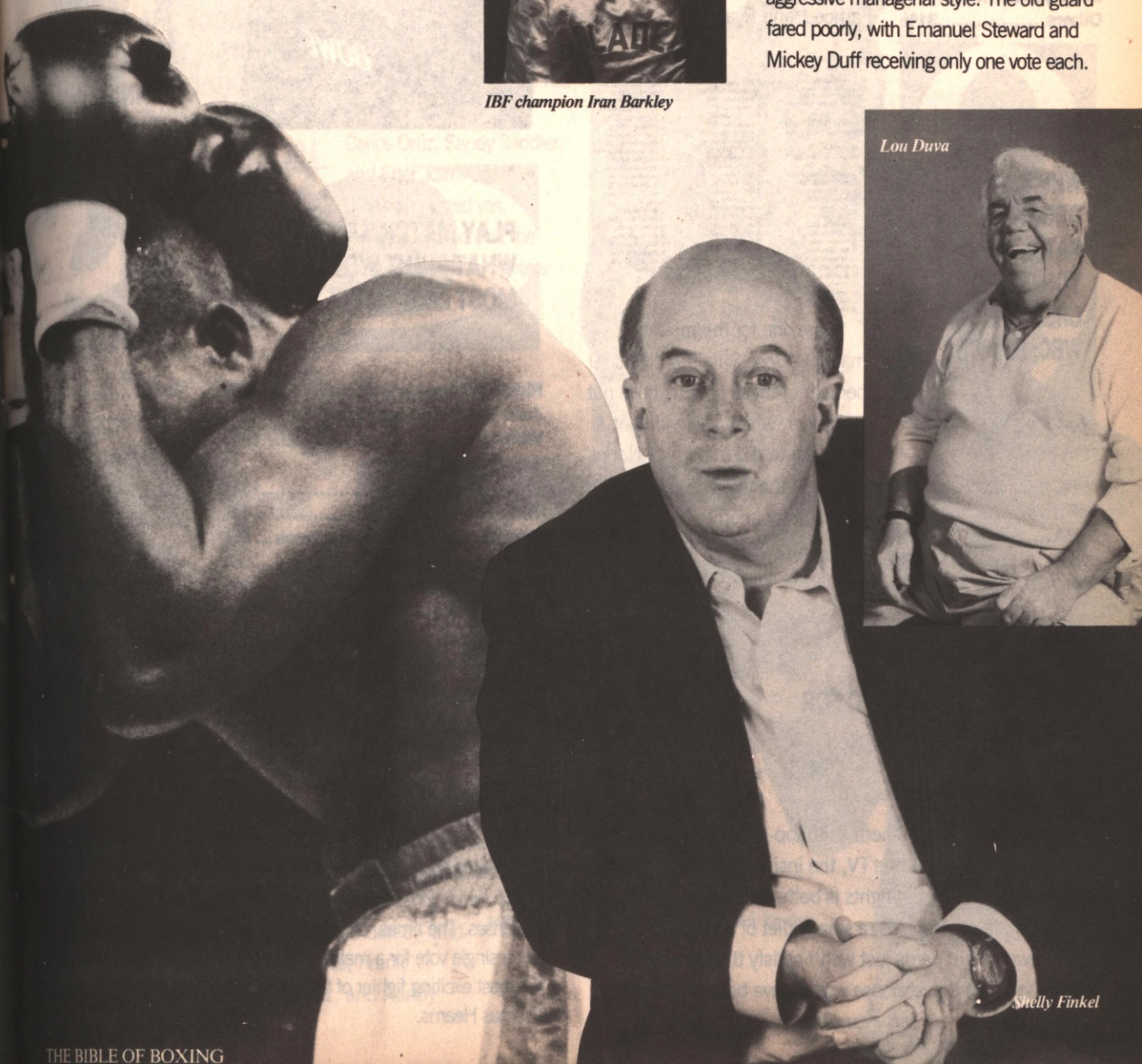


IBF champion Iran Barkley

WHO IS THE BEST MANAGER IN BOXING?

Shelly Finkel	28%
Lou Duva	16%
Rock Newman	12%
Jackie Kallen	7%
Bill Cayton	7%
Dave Wolf	4%
Others	26%

Finkel and Duva, who are partners, received a combined 44 percent. The fourth-place finish of Kallen, who guides IBF middleweight champion James Toney, supports her fearless and aggressive managerial style. The old guard fared poorly, with Emanuel Steward and Mickey Duff receiving only one vote each.



Lou Duva

Shelly Finkel

WHO IS THE BEST BOXING WRITER IN THE COUNTRY?

Michael Katz

Pat Putnam

Wallace Matthews

Michael Katz 20%
Wallace Matthews 14%
Pat Putnam 10%
Jack Fiske 9%
Steve Farhood 9%
Jeff Ryan 7%
Others 31%

The vote was predictably spread thin, with a pair of veteran New York beat writers/columnists leading the way. The *Daily News'* Katz, who moonlights for *The Ring*, and Newsday's Matthews rarely cover anything but boxing. Only a handful of newspapermen make the same claim, including Fiske *(The San Francisco Chronicle)*. Magazines were well-represented, with Putnam *(Sports Illustrated)* and *The Ring's* own Farhood and Ryan.

WHO WOULD WIN A FIGHT BETWEEN RIDDICK BOWE AND LENNOX LEWIS?

Bowe 50%
Lewis 50%

At least a year will pass before this showdown materializes. During that time, opinions will likely shift according to the fight schedule. After a kayo victory by Bowe, the percentages will move to 60-40 in his favor. If Lewis answers with an impressive win of his own, the numbers will move to 60-40 for him. It'll be like a presidential election, when each candidate peaks in the polls immediately after his party's convention.

WHICH ORGANIZATION'S RATINGS WOULD YOU DEEM MOST CREDIBLE: WBA; WBC; IBF; WBO?

WBC.....37%
IBF.....27%
WBA.....17%
None 19%
WBO 0%

Score one for the much-maligned Jose Sulaiman. But 19 percent of those polled chose not to answer, which is significant because we did not offer "None" as one of the responses. A question for another poll: Do You Deem *Any* Of The Organization's Ratings Credible?

PLAY MATCHMAKER: WHAT FIGHT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE?

Riddick Bowe-Lennox Lewis 23%
Julio Cesar Chavez-Pernell Whitaker 19%
Julio Cesar Chavez-Buddy McGirt 13%
Terry Norris-Roy Jones 5%
Orlando Canizales-Junior Jones... 5%
James Toney-Roy Jones 5%
James Toney-Julian Jackson 3%
Others 27%

Can you believe it? Not a single vote for a strawweight unification battle between Ricardo Lopez and Rattanapol Sorvorapin! Bowe-Lewis was the obvious choice, with Whitaker and McGirt splitting the Chavez vote. IBF bantamweight champion Canizales has been all but invisible. Nonetheless, a matchup vs. unbeaten New Yorker Junior Jones still drew a handful of responses. The times, they are a-changin': Not a single vote for a matchup involving the most exciting fighter of the '80s, Thomas Hearns.

IS PAY-PER-VIEW GOOD FOR THE GAME?

Yes 69%
No 31%

Have we been conditioned? With top-level boxing only occasionally offered on free TV, the insiders have decided that funding big fights is better than no big fights at all. In other words, a steady diet of ESPN and USA Network fight cards just won't satisfy the appetite. We wonder what the response would have been had we asked our readers the same question.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MEDIA'S COVERAGE OF BOXING: POOR; MEDIOCRE; GOOD; EXCELLENT?

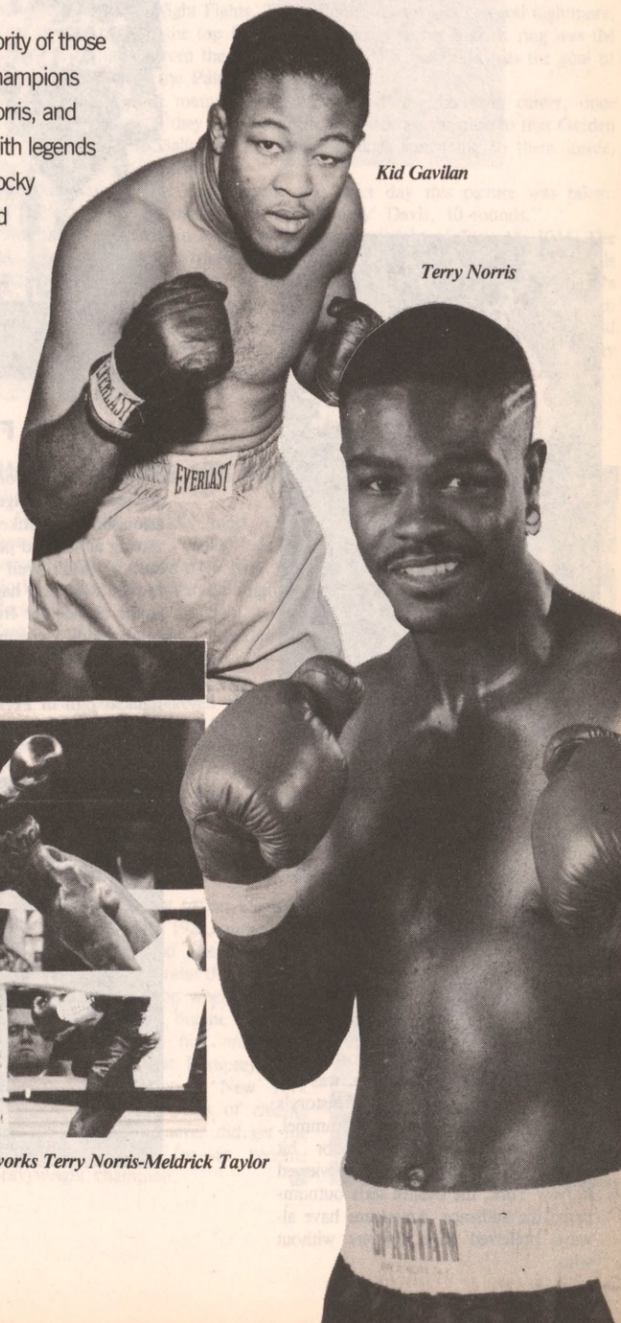
Poor 29%
Mediocre 47%
Good 19%
Excellent 5%

Doesn't *anyone* like the media? That 76 percent of those polled described the coverage as either poor or mediocre hardly shocked us. In fact, we agree with them. (Had we really been masochistic, we would've asked them to grade *The Ring's* coverage.)

ARE TODAY'S BEST FIGHTERS AS GOOD AS THE BEST FIGHTERS OF 30 OR 40 YEARS AGO?

Yes 56%
No 44%

A mild surprise. The majority of those polled decided that world champions Chavez, Bowe, Whitaker, Norris, and McGirt compare favorably with legends like Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Marciano, Archie Moore, Kid Gavilan, Emile Griffith, Carlos Ortiz, Sandy Saddler, and Eder Jofre. Some of those who voted yes, however, added that the number of quality fighters has declined.



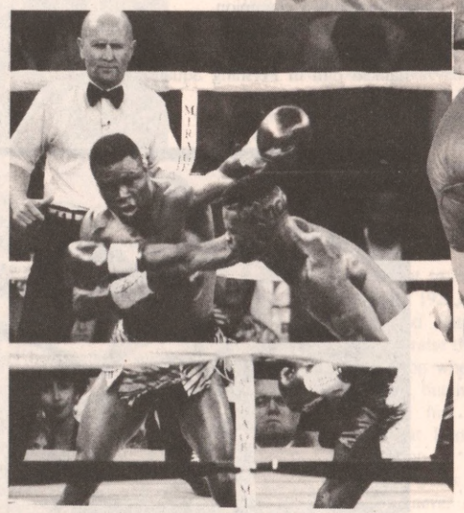
Kid Gavilan

Terry Norris

WHO IS THE BEST REFEREE IN BOXING?

Mills Lane 35%
Joe Cortez 18%
Richard Steele 16%
Steve Smoger 6%
Arthur Mercante Sr. 4%
Others 21%

"Let's get it on!" Win, place, and show for Nevada, although much of Cortez' reputation was built while he was based in New Jersey. Interesting that Smoger finished ahead of other New Jersey- and New York-based referees like Mercante, Frank Cappuccino, Rudy Battle, Tony Perez, and Randy Neumann. ■



Mills Lane works Terry Norris-Meldrick Taylor

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

ROSE PLUS FOUR ROSES

(August 19, 1969)

The moment world bantamweight champion Lionel Rose swung into Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles, four busty lovelies seemed to appear from nowhere and, to the boxer's astonishment, flanked him on both sides as they picked up the pace of his jog. Laughing and waving at stunned passers-by, the girls stuck close to Lionel for about half-a-mile before dropping out. It wasn't until he was back at his hotel about two hours later that the Australian finally learned what had happened: The girls were from an L.A. club called the Largo A.C., and leaped at the chance for free publicity. "Nothing like this could ever happen in my country," said the still-befuddled champion.

Three days later, Rose was kayoed by the great Ruben Olivares in six rounds. He returned to Australia minus the title. But be assured that he never forgot those four buxom beauties who flanked him in Pershing Square.

BEAU BRUMMEL

(January 7, 1922)

Six months after he failed in his gallant bid to dethrone heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey in America, Georges Carpentier was back in his native France, starring in a spicy film aptly titled *Beau Brummel*. Despite his loss to Dempsey, Gorgeous Georges was still France's national hero—and still light heavyweight champion of the world.

Carpentier, who shares with Billy Conn the unofficial title of Most Handsome Prizefighter of All-Time, was tailor-made for the movie role of history's greatest lover, the notorious Brummel. The silent film was a major hit throughout France, but when previewed in New York, the theatre staff outnumbered the audience. Americans have always preferred their fighters without wigs.

FANCY DRAWERS

(October 4, 1940)

After weighing in for their welterweight championship fight at Madison Square Garden, defending champ Henry Armstrong (left) and Fritzie Zivic struck up the traditional fighting pose for photographers. Because most important fighters knew these posed pictures would appear in all the newspapers, they made sure their underwear was pressed and clean. Zivic's high-waisted, dark green drawers were crackling new, held together by four buttons running up past his navel. But Henry's two-toned garb was soiled and badly creased. We can only guess that at this stage of his long, illustrious career, "Hammerin' Hank" had become bored with such ceremony and chose to be judged not by his drawers, but by his churning fists.

LINING UP

(September 17, 1935)

Anxious fans wait to buy tickets at a makeshift box office on a Manhattan street, proving once again that if you give the public what it wants, people will tear the doors down to see it.

Such was the case when young Joe Louis was matched against ex-heavyweight champion Max Baer at New York's Yankee Stadium. The fight had all the elements of a great drama, with master promoter Mike Jacobs to orchestrate the entire production.

On the chill evening of September 24, 1935, anxious fans filled every seat in huge Yankee Stadium to watch Louis, in his second New York appearance, cut down Baer in the fourth round for his 21st consecutive victory and catapult to number-one contender for Jimmy Braddock's heavyweight crown. That the fight would be a major financial success was a certainty. But not until after the final accounting was made did anyone, including Jacobs, realize the huge size of the bonanza; 88,150 people paid $1,000,832, the sixth biggest gate in boxing history.

BOXING TONIGHT

(June 15, 1944)

Looking at this wide-angle picture of the main entrance to the old Madison Square Garden on New York City's Eighth Avenue will surely trigger cherished memories of those unforgettable Friday Night Fights. The building was an architectural nightmare, with an ice skating rink on the top floor, but to appear in her historic ring was the goal of every prize fighter from the '20s through the '50s, just as it was the goal of every vaudevillian to play the Palace Theatre.

Al Weill, who managed many great champions during his long career, once observed, "I don't care who they are. When they walk down the aisle to that Garden ring, they choke up. Especially the first time. It does something to them inside, something that can't be explained."

Reading the marquee, we can pinpoint the exact day this picture was taken: "Boxing Tonight, Henry Armstrong vs. Al 'Bummy' Davis, 10 rounds."

That was the Garden's main event on the war year night of June 15, 1944. The immortal Armstrong, once a triple world champion, was at the tail end of his glorious career, once again gracing the ring he had monopolized so often in years past. Davis, the young Brooklyn tough guy whose paralyzing left hook rocketed him to stardom, would surely be rewarded with a shot at the welterweight title if he could get past old Henry. But Bummy couldn't even last two rounds. Another great Friday night fight at the Garden was history.

THE TALL AND THE SHORT

(June 2, 1934)

Primo Carnera, the biggest man ever to hold the heavyweight crown, playfully squares off with the smallest of all heavyweight champs, Tommy Burns. Primo was training to defend the heavyweight title against Max Baer, scheduled for June 12, and when 53-year-old former champ Burns showed up at his Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, training camp, Carnera was astonished. Speaking in Italian, he told reporters he couldn't understand how such a small man could have been heavyweight champion.

Upon hearing Carnera's remark, Little Tommy, who more than made up for his size with raw courage and tenacity, motioned Primo to another square-off. The champ gleefully obliged, as he quickly shifted into a fighting stance. Burns crouched so low his knees seemed to touch the ground. He feinted a jab at the huge man before him, then instantly dug a right into his ribs. The shot had enough power behind it to cause an echoing thud. The grin on Primo's face changed to a look of shock. Quickly regaining his composure, he rubbed his body, then put his arm around Tommy's broad shoulders. Again speaking through an interpreter, Carnera said, "Now I know why this little man was once a champion."

HARRY MAKES HIS POINT

(February 8, 1923)

Why is the world's most feared heavyweight, Harry Wills, shoving around bales of cotton on a New York dock? Answer: To embarrass champion Jack Dempsey. Harry's biggest claim to fame was his constant heckling of Dempsey, and his insistence that the champ was scared to face him in the ring. Most people believed Wills, and he was solidly supported by the news media. Harry and his army of fans were confident that 1923 would be the year Dempsey would be forced to meet the contender, and to call attention to their cause, Harry worked as a stevedore, with news photographers always within shooting range.

But alas, it was not to be. Dempsey made two defenses in 1923, outpointing Tommy Gibbons and flattening Luis Firpo. Wills couldn't raise the train fare to heckle the champion when he licked Gibbons in Montana, but he was right there at ringside to hiss and make threatening gestures at Dempsey when he ripped apart Firpo in New York City. All of Harry's years of chiding proved fruitless. He never did get the chance he yearned for—to become heavyweight champion. ■

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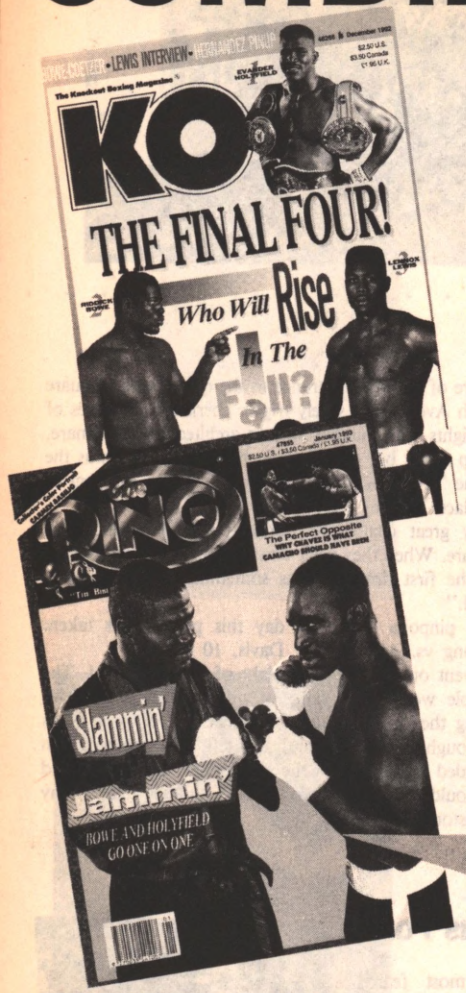

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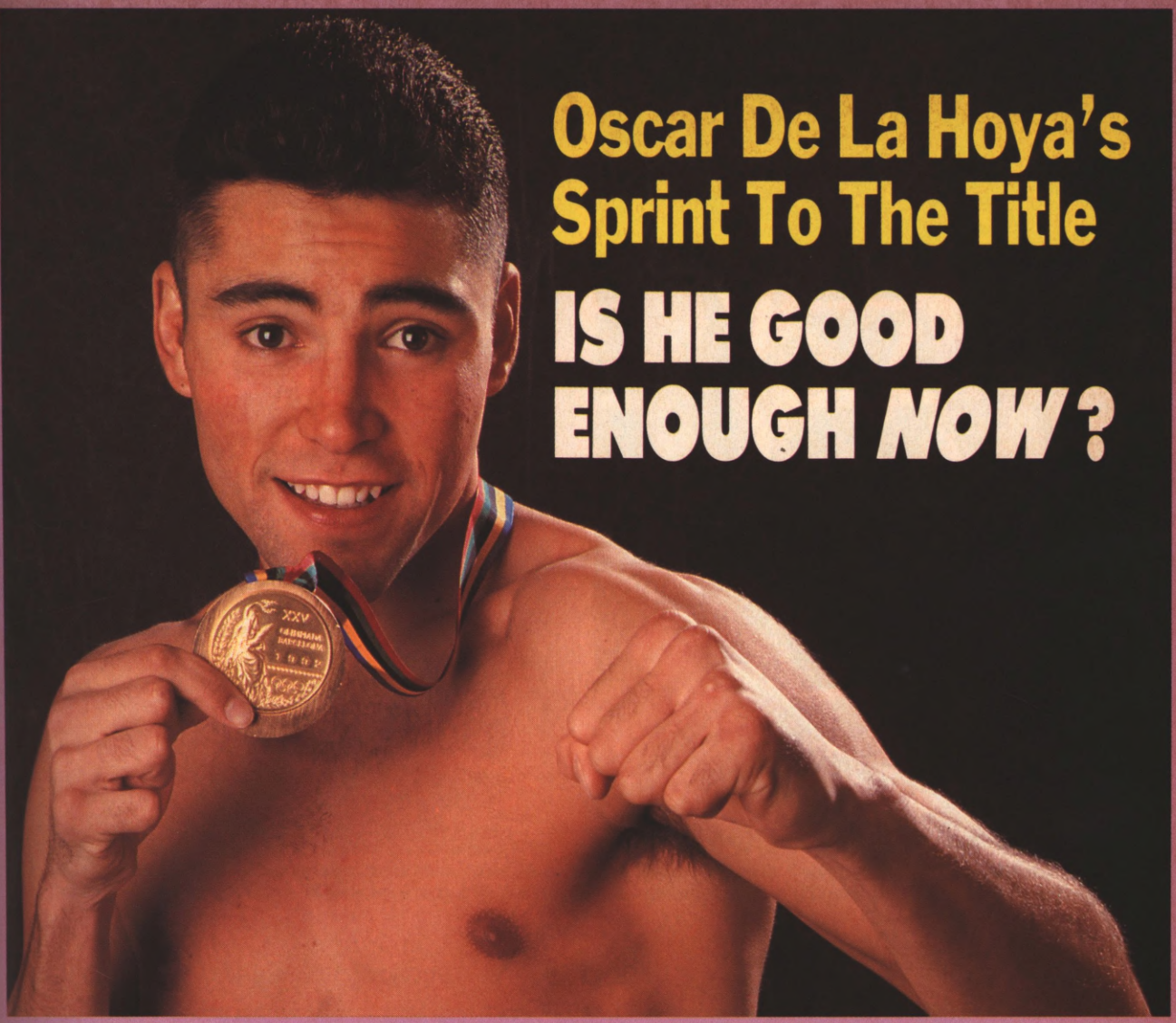
Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title

IS HE GOOD ENOUGH *NOW*?



Photos By Marc Morrison & Photography Ink

By Robert Cassidy

Oscar De La Hoya's money is already in the bank. The down payment on his new home has been paid. The first million-dollar six-round fighter in boxing history is financially secure. Now comes the tricky part: His managers must see to it that their golden boy delivers the pot of gold that his vast boxing potential has seemed to promise.

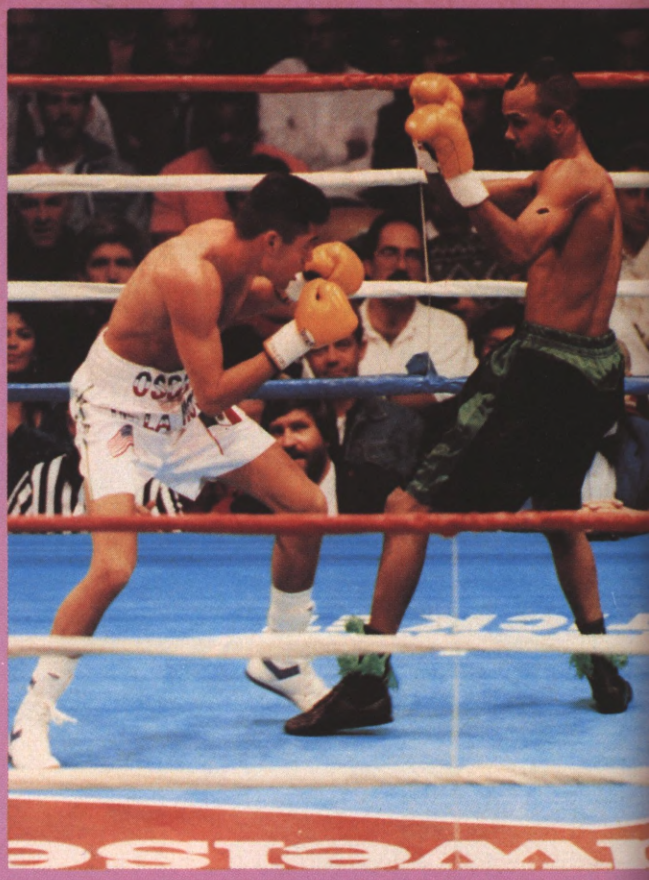
To some, banking on potential is a crap shoot. To others it's a calculated risk. In this case of Steve Nelson and Robert Mittleman, De La Hoya's co-managers, the development of their fighter's potential could end in a tremendous windfall or a trip to bankruptcy court. They were willing to take the risk. Or was it a gamble? Consider this: Nelson and Mittleman won't make a profit until *after* De La Hoya wins a world title *and* makes a few successful defenses. Now *that's* risky business.

"If he wins the title, we'll be positive by the second fight," said Nelson. "Everyone said it was going to take us three years to make money. I think it will be more like a year and a half. I can't see him not winning a title."

De La Hoya, the only U.S. boxer to win a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics, was given the most lucrative contract in boxing history. He received $500,000 in cash, a new car, a new van, and half the down payment on a four-bedroom home in an exclusive section of Los Angeles. Thus, Nelson and Mittleman are caught in the modern boxing dilemma of trying to protect their investment without hindering his progress as a fighter.

The question is, will Nelson and Mittleman be too cautious or too aggressive? A successful manager is able to straddle the line. Yet, in just three fights, De La Hoya's managers have been accused of straying too far in both directions.

A recent *Los Angeles Times* column criticized De La Hoya's management for feeding him unworthy and unwilling



Above left: Responsible for De La Hoya's progress is trainer Robert Alcazar (clapping hands), who is unaccustomed to the spotlight. Alcazar has worked with De La Hoya for three years. Above right: In his pro debut, De La Hoya walked through Lamar Williams. Should he immediately be matched against tougher opposition?

competition in his first three outings. The tenor of the piece, written by Earl Gustkey, was that De La Hoya was basically wasting time against woefully overmatched opposition. Gustkey, who says he witnessed an amateur De La Hoya easily handle current WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez in the gym, had suggested the precocious Olympian debut against Hernandez.

In contrast, some boxing experts are openly second-guessing the duo for putting De La Hoya's career on fast-forward. As we went to press, De La Hoya, 3-0 (3), was scheduled to fight a six-rounder against Curtis Strong on ABC and then, on March 13, meet veteran Jeff Mayweather in an eight-rounder on the Michael Carbajal-Humberto Gonzalez undercard. Mayweather, 24-2-2 (6), has gone 10 rounds on seven occasions. He was stopped by 1988 Olympian Todd Foster in August and fought to a draw with Jorge Romero in December.

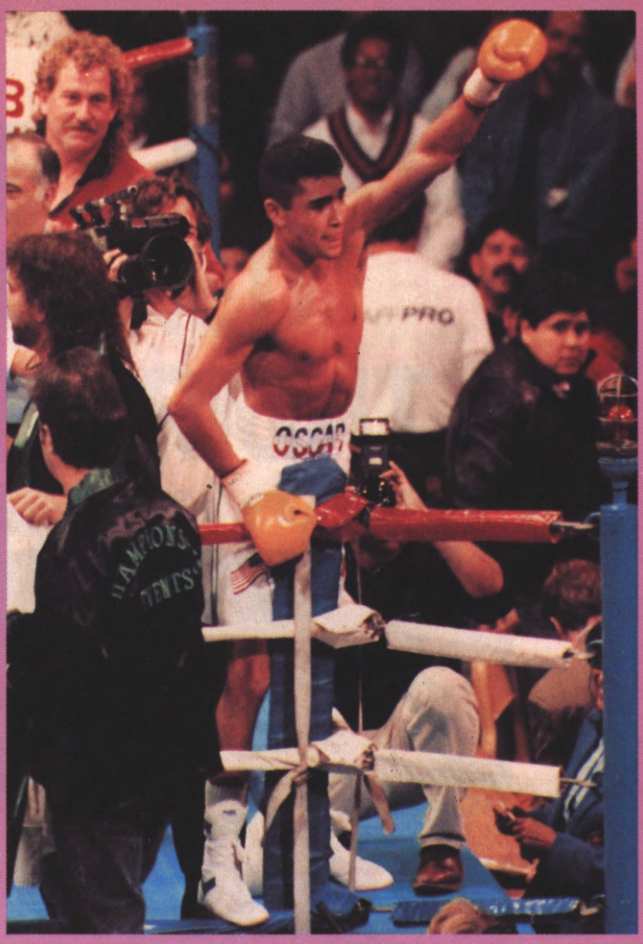
"I think he should give Oscar a good test, but at the same time I think Oscar will knock him out early," Nelson said of Mayweather. "We're coming of the belief that none of those other guys can hold up with Oscar. I don't think there's a ranked fighter who can give Oscar a battle."

That's saying a lot when you consider De La Hoya has gone a total of four rounds in three pro fights. In fact, it's saying too much.

"I think the kid has a lot of talent," said *Newsday* boxing writer Wallace Matthews, who covered De La Hoya in the Olympics. "But I don't know what the rush is. Even Mayweather seems a little quick. But I don't think Mayweather is too dangerous. He might turn out to be the perfect opponent."

De La Hoya is indeed an exceptionally talented fighter, but it would seem the Olympic champion is still *rounds* away from beating any world champion. Despite an obvious lack of experience, the tough talk continues.

In November, De La Hoya sat ringside and watched 34-year-old WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson defend the title against Calvin Grove. Two weeks later, after De La Hoya stopped Lamar Williams in his debut, he announced he could beat Nelson. When word spread throughout the boxing community, Al Braverman, Don King's



Above left: Williams crumbled inside of one round. Above right: De La Hoya celebrates with his fans at the Great Western Forum. The Mexican-American lightweight is already a star in the Latin community. He also has crossover appeal, and his management is currently negotiating for a pair of big-money national endorsement deals.

matchmaker, offered the De La Hoya camp a fight with Nelson.

"We're keeping the lines of communication open," said Nelson. "We're gonna take it one fight at a time. I honestly believe he can take Azumah tomorrow. I think he can find a way to beat anyone he gets into the ring with.

"But it's not the right time," Nelson continued, perhaps allowing reality a chance to catch up. "We can't rush Oscar into an Azumah Nelson fight right now."

Instead, Team De La Hoya is honing in on Juan LaPorte, a former featherweight champion now reduced to a steppingstone. That is, of course, once they get by Mayweather.

LaPorte, who turned pro in 1977, when De La Hoya was four years old, has dropped decisions to Hector Lopez and Australian prospect Kostya Tszyu in the last year. But what the iron-chinned New Yorker will assure De La Hoya is rounds. LaPorte's itemized record could easily double as a Hall of Fame ballot. He's faced Nelson, Salvador Sanchez, Eusebio Pedroza, Wilfredo Gomez, Barry McGuigan, and Julio Cesar Chavez, and has never been stopped.

"We think that LaPorte will give him some good work," said Nelson. "He's durable. He's experienced. That's the kind of work Oscar needs."

But that may not be the only kind of work De La Hoya gets. A TV movie depicting his life story is being discussed, and Nelson and Mittleman have retained Lon Rosen, Magic Johnson's agent, to handle endorsements. To date, Rosen is negotiating a sneaker contract, as well as a commercial deal with a major soft drink company.

Nelson and Mittleman understand, though, that the commercial success of De La Hoya is predicated on his ring success. And before they build a superstar (the gold medal routine will soon wear off), they must first build a champion. That job has been left to Robert Alcazar.

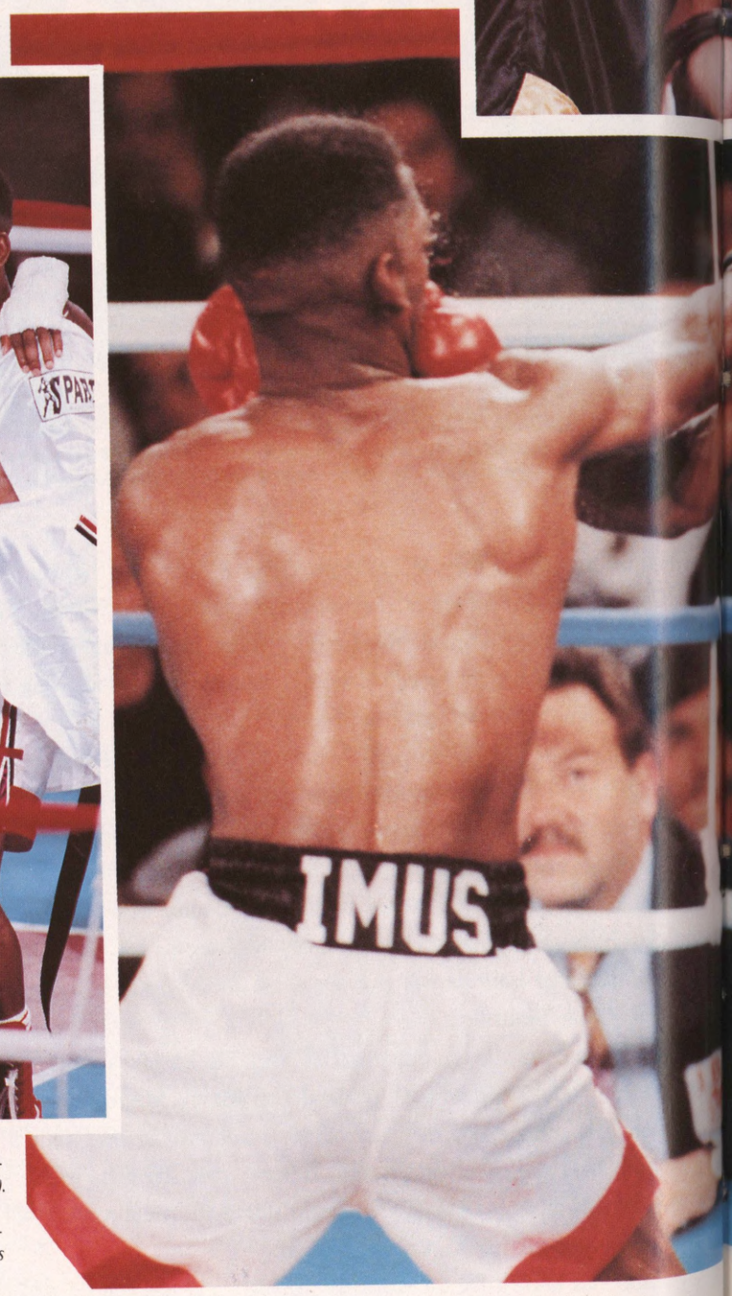
Alcazar has known De La Hoya for 10 years and has trained him for the last three. He has been a boxing trainer for 21 years and, in his own words, has worked with "all kinds of fighters, but no other big names."

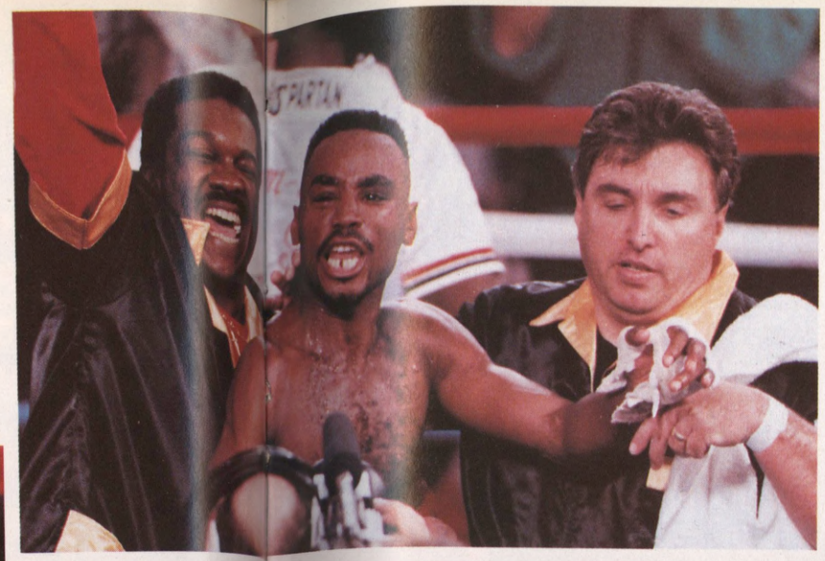
(Continued on page 61)

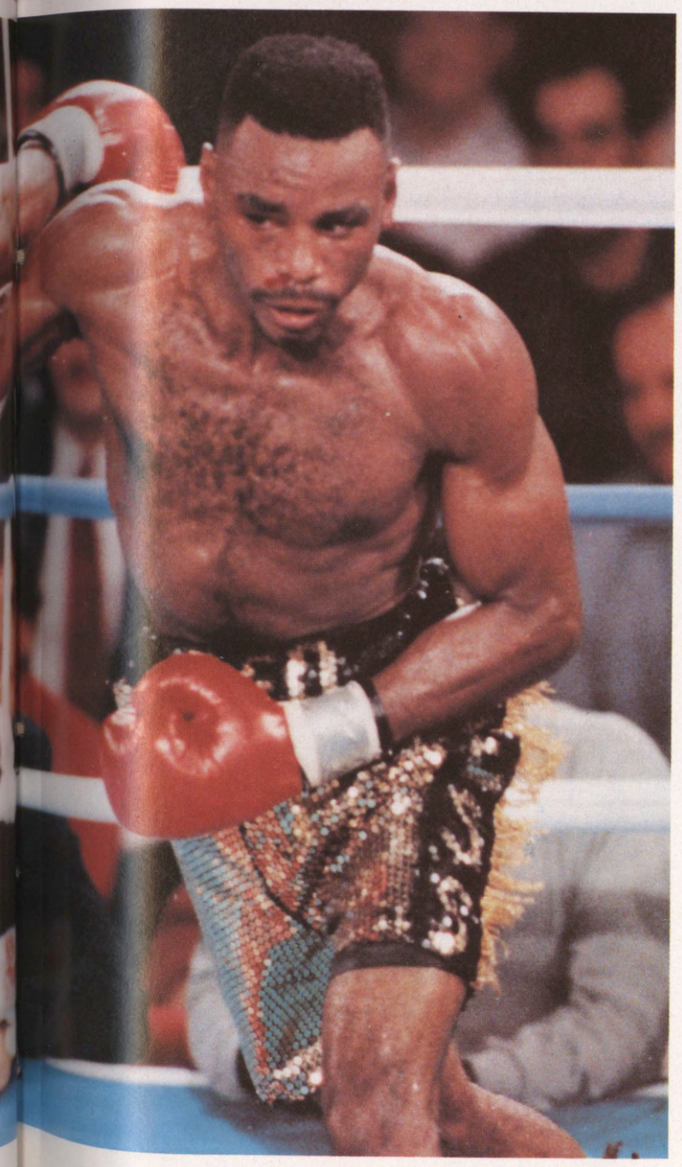
IBF Lightweight Champ Freddie Pendleton

HE'S FINALLY EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE COCKY

Photos By Al Bello







After Pendleton defeated Spann (right), the lightweights acknowledged each other's effort (above). After the decision was announced, the champion celebrated with handlers Tommy Brooks and Al Bonani (top right).

By Jeff Ryan

When a boxer has 17 losses on his record, he's supposed to tiptoe, not strut. He's supposed to hail taxis, not his own arrival. If a guy with a 33-17-4 record beats his chest, everyone thinks he must have indigestion. If he pops his buttons, we assume that he just buys cheap shirts. A .667 winning percentage is great, all right—if you're a hockey team. If you're a fighter with those numbers, you better limit your trash talk to debating the garbageman on the merits of a Glad bag vs. a Hefty Cinch Sak.

Had "Fearless" Freddie Pendleton believed any of this, of course, he wouldn't have been where he was on the night of January 10, which was on a throne, inside the history books, and IN YOUR FACE like ESPNdelton. After capturing the vacant IBF lightweight title by defeating Tracy Spann at Harrah's hotel-casino in Atlantic City, Pendleton donned shades, strutted into the postfight press conference like he was auditioning for a *Saturday Night Fever* sequel, and declared, "I'm pretty, I move good, I dance good, and I knew I'd be a world champion." Then he scrapped the humility and spoke his mind.

"You *know* I'm a cute fighter," he said, leaving the befuddled press corps to wonder if he was still on the topic of his face or his moves. "If it ain't done the Freddie Pendleton way, it ain't done right. No one could have beaten Spann except me. I mean, look at me, I'm *that* good."

(Continued on page 53)

LENNOX LEWIS

Until he defeats WBA-IBF champion and archrival Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis will not be recognized as a legitimate world heavyweight champion. Nonetheless, on January 14, the WBC presented the Englishman with its belt, based on his October kayo victory over Razor Ruddock. Whether or not Lewis unifies the title, he has already surpassed the handful of British big men who have failed to win boxing's most precious prize. The last British heavyweight champion was Bob Fitzsimmons, who reigned from 1897 to 1899. (Listed below are the seven most recent British title challengers.)

AT LONG LAST, BRITAIN CLAIMS A CHAMP

Frank Bruno

Among the most popular fighters in British ring history, the finely chiseled Bruno fought gallantly during his February 25, 1989, challenge of world champion Mike Tyson in Las Vegas. The end result: a fifth-round kayo loss. Bruno remains active, and is rated in the top 10 of all three organizations. He has been mentioned as a possible opponent for Lewis.

Richard Dunn

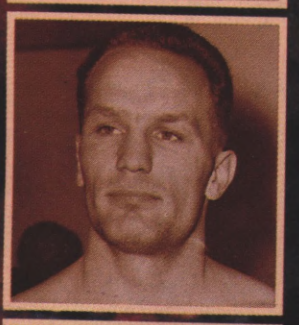
The one-time British and Commonwealth titlist proved no match for world champion Muhammad Ali, who scored the last kayo of his career by crushing Dunn in five rounds on May 24, 1976, in Munich. Dunn's failure was no surprise; he had previously been stopped no less than eight times.

Joe Bugner

The Hungarian-born Adonis twice faced Muhammad Ali, the second meeting coming in 1973). Bugner lasted the distance but never threatened to win.

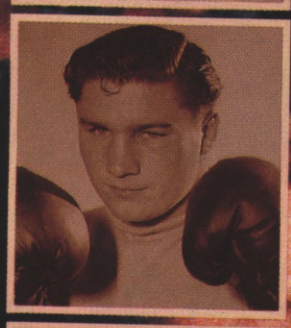
Brian London

Gutty but limited, London twice tried for the world crown. On May 1, 1959, in Indianapolis, he lasted 11 disappointing rounds vs. Floyd Patterson, and on August 6, 1966, at Earls Court in London, he was blasted out by Muhammad Ali in three.



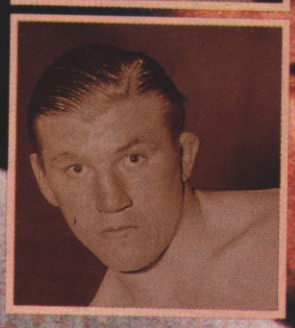
Henry Cooper

Known as much for his sensitive skin as his big left hook, Cooper scored a knockdown in his first meeting with Muhammad Ali (then Cassius Clay). They were rematched for the title on May 21, 1966, at Arsenal Stadium in London, with Ali scoring a bloody sixth-round TKO.



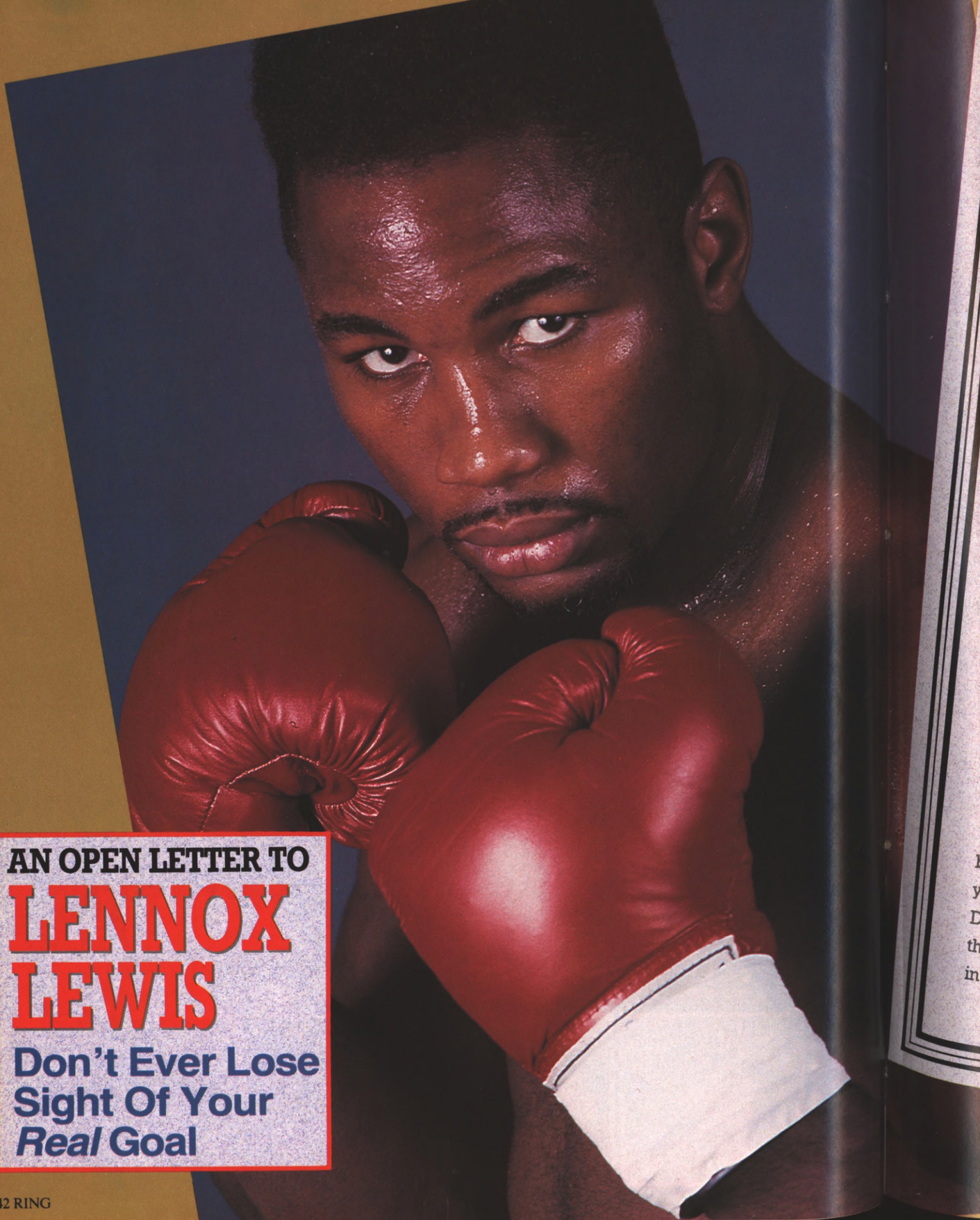
Don Cockell

A veteran campaigner and former British light heavyweight and heavyweight champion, Cockell challenged world champion Rocky Marciano on May 16, 1955, in San Francisco. He gamely weathered several low blows and three knockdowns before being rescued by referee Frankie Brown in the ninth round.



Tommy Farr

The Welshman will never be forgotten for one of the most courageous performances in division history, his 15-round points loss to world champion Joe Louis on August 30, 1937, in New York City. It was Louis' first defense; he went on to score kayos in 21 of his remaining 24 title fight victories.



AN OPEN LETTER TO LENNOX LEWIS

Don't Ever Lose Sight Of Your *Real* Goal

THE BIBLE OF BOXING
Founded 1922

The RING

Dear Lennox,

Let me extend my belated congratulations for your demolition of Razor Ruddock. The way you dismantled the man who went 19 grueling rounds with Mike Tyson was an impressive show of speed and power.

I know that winning that bout was supposed to have set you up for a showdown with the winner of Riddick Bowe-Evander Holyfield. But once you pummeled Ruddock in such convincing fashion, it seemed as if Bowe and his manager, Rock Newman, wanted no part of you, and they backed out of their agreement. I didn't care for their actions, but you know as well as I do that a written agreement means little in this sport, and a man's word means even less.

I have a few suggestions that ought to help you land a fight with Bowe in '93. I'll run them by you a little later. But first, this business about you being the WBC champion just doesn't sit well with me. I realize that it wasn't your decision to become a paper champion, but that's what you are now, and will always be, until you beat Bowe. In my opinion, you are not the first Briton in 94 years to win the world heavyweight title, no matter what some of your countrymen might believe.

It seems like we're back to another fractured heavyweight title. But when it became evident to WBC President Jose Sulaiman that Bowe was going to bypass you, the WBC's designated challenger, in favor of fighting the used-up Michael Dokes, he had no choice but to strip Bowe of the organization's belt. And I'm sure the stripping was expedited after Bowe dropped the WBC belt into a garbage can in front of scores of photographers.

(Continued on page 55)

Photo by Al Bello

Who Will Be "Lord Of The Flys"?

A PREVIEW OF THE CARBAJAL-GONZALEZ CLASH

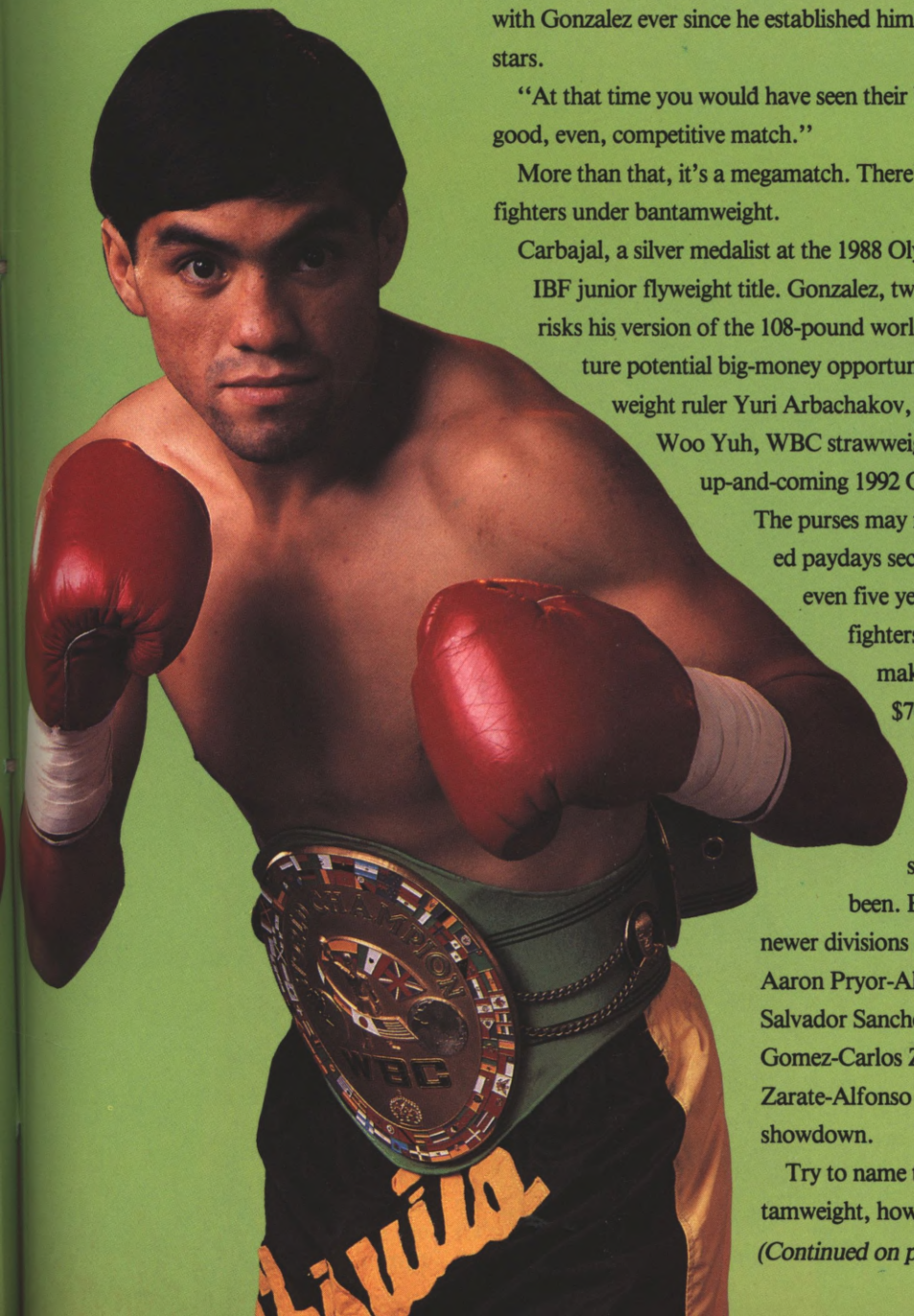
By Bruce Williams

A fight fueled by the competitiveness of fierce rivals is deserving of attention. But when those rivals crave greatness, respect, and financial security, the matchup rises to another level. On March 13, at the Las Vegas Hilton, 108-pound champions Michael Carbajal and Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez will clash in the long-anticipated unification battle billed as "Lord Of The Flys." Perhaps more than any championship bout before it, the showdown will illustrate why the size of the fighters should never determine the significance of their fight.

Rafael Mendoza, the veteran agent for Latin fighters in the United States and Mexico, is candid in discussing the bout, which will be televised internationally on pay-per-view. "This is a very, very tough, very, very close fight," he said. "It is very competitive. That's what I call good matchmaking."

This is a fight that has been talked about for two years, but was set back by Gonzalez' loss to Rolando Pascua, a tough victory for Carbajal over Javier Varguez, and injuries to both fighters. At one time Gonzalez and Carbajal hoped for a million dollars apiece; now that it's finally happening, the $350,000 (plus potential bonuses) they'll each make is still a record for the littlest of professional fighters.

"After those setbacks, they had to give the guys a chance to recover, to build things back up," said Mendoza, who was associated with Carbajal early in the Arizonan's professional career, and has been with Gonzalez ever since he established himself as one of Mexico's brightest stars.



"At that time you would have seen their best, two years ago. Still, today it's a good, even, competitive match."

More than that, it's a megamatch. There's never been a bout like it between fighters under bantamweight.

Carbajal, a silver medalist at the 1988 Olympics, risks his unbeaten record and IBF junior flyweight title. Gonzalez, two-time WBC light flyweight king, risks his version of the 108-pound world championship. And both risk future potential big-money opportunities against the likes of WBC flyweight ruler Yuri Arbachakov, WBA junior flyweight king Myung Woo Yuh, WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez, and up-and-coming 1992 Olympian Eric Griffin.

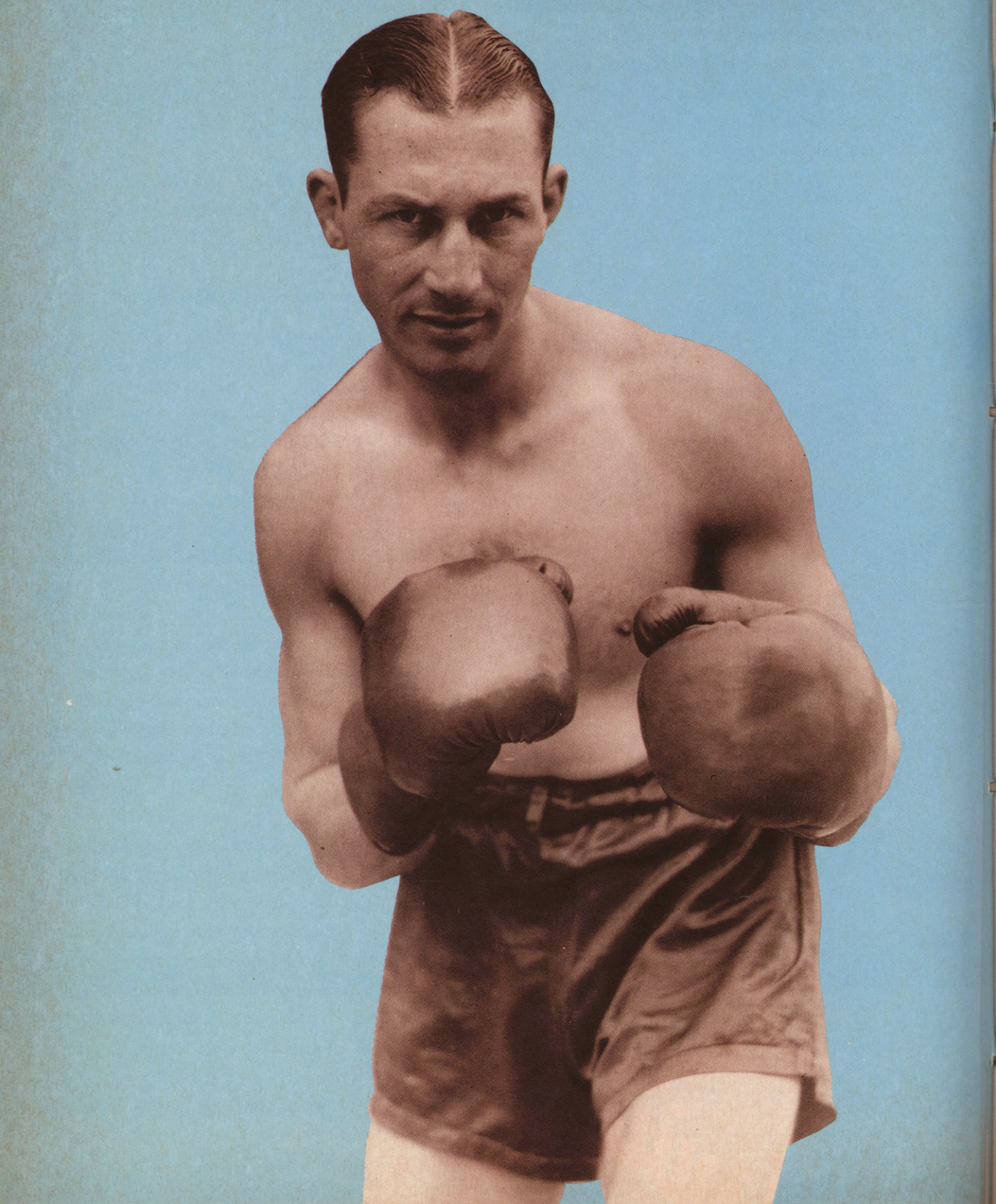
The purses may not compare to the ridiculously inflated paydays secured by the top heavyweights. But even five years ago it was unimaginable that two fighters whose combined weight doesn't make one Lennox Lewis would split $700,000 for one bout.

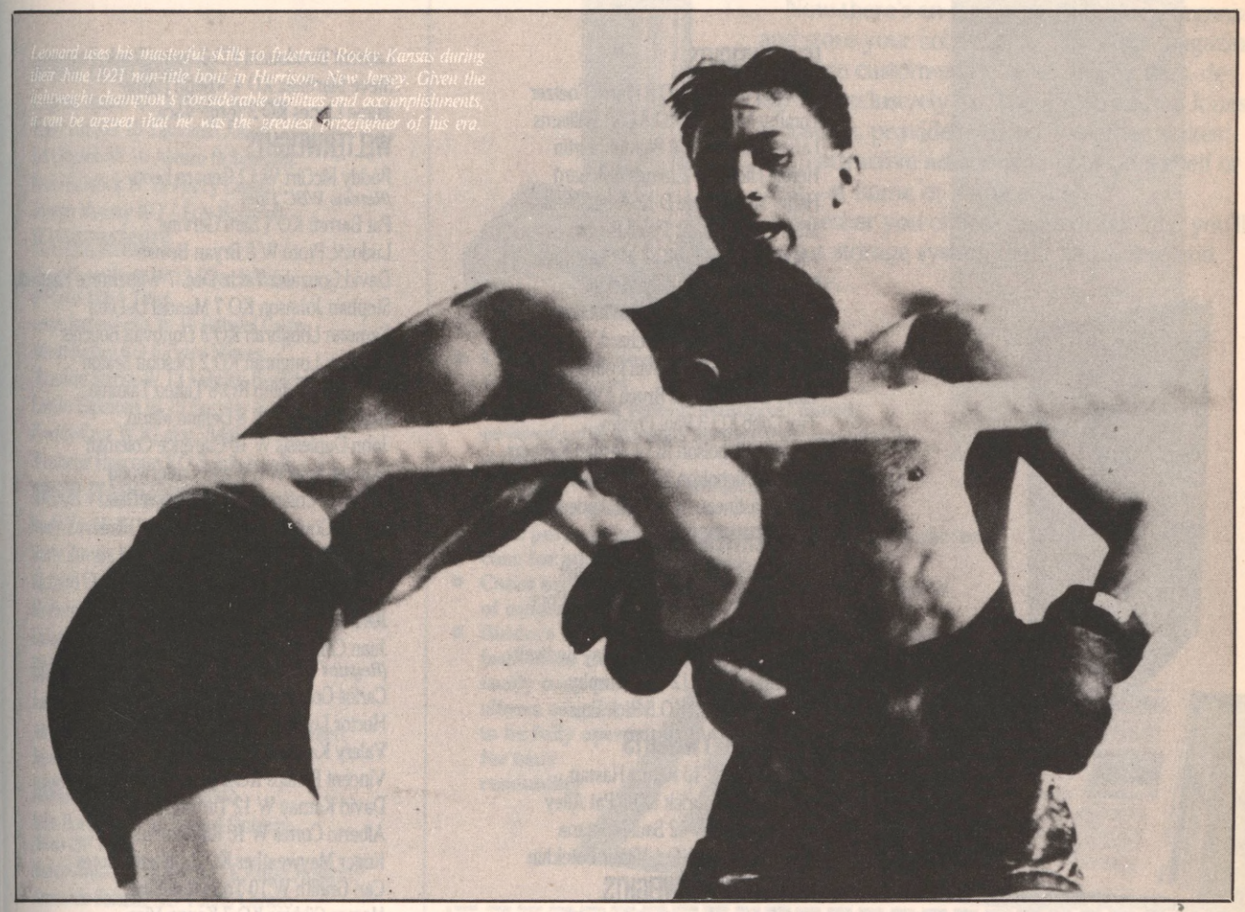
Every division has its definitive fight, the historic duel that everyone remembers. The bigger the division, the more megafights there have been. But in recent years, the smaller and newer divisions have enjoyed their moments as well: Aaron Pryor-Alexis Arguello at junior welterweight, Salvador Sanchez-Wilfredo Gomez at featherweight, Gomez-Carlos Zarate at junior featherweight, even Zarate-Alfonso Zamora in a non-title bantamweight showdown.

Try to name the most famous fights below bantamweight, however, and you will likely draw a

(Continued on page 72)

BENNY LEONARD'S AMAZING SECRET





Leonard uses his masterful skills to frustrate Rocky Kansas during their June 1921 non-title bout in Harrison, New Jersey. Given the lightweight champion's considerable abilities and accomplishments, it can be argued that he was the greatest prizefighter of his era.

Let one who knew Leonard well reveal for the first time "The Master's" inside secrets. What made Benny great? According to Leonard, it was a common old tomcat

Editor's Note: This story first appeared in 1956

By **Norman Reissman**

This might be called a prizefight yarn, since it is wrapped around a past king of a game in which men make a livelihood slugging one another's face out of shape. And yet in another sense, it isn't about fighting at all. Let's put it this way: The king in question reached his throne by devising a way to take the "slug" out of his business; to turn it into a clever thing without robbing it of its excitement. They called him a cute guy, and a pleasant one.

Still, he helped to carry along a certain turbulent era in sports with Jack Dempsey, Bill Tilden, Babe Ruth, and Bobby Jones each playing a potent role. Benny Leonard moved into that golden circle by virtue of an incredible head. He thought of boxing as a business, converting it at times into an art. He often maintained, "A man must not get hurt. If he does, he's failed. He's got to learn not to get hurt, then he can take boxing by the tail and give it a good whirl."

Who wants to kill himself even for a million bucks? With this theme in mind, let me tell you about the time Benny was king.

King of all the lightweights. King of the East Side of New York, too, and he seemed to cherish the latter title most.

There are not many facts I would care to use. Such as Benny's record of 400 fights or more, in which he was defeated just five times and finished an 18-year professional life without a scar

(Continued on page 65)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

George Foreman KO 8 Pierre Coetzer
Tommy Morrison KO 8 Carl Williams
Larry Holmes W 10 Bigfoot Martin
Herbie Hide KO 2 James Pritchard
Henry Akinwande D 12 Axel Schultze
Mike Hunter W 12 Tyrell Biggs
Alexandre Zolkin KO 7 Michael Greer
Frans Botha KO 5 Billy Wright
Lou Savarese KO 6 Fred Whitaker
Michael Greer KO 2 Richard Talley
Leon Spinks KO 1 Kevin Poindexter
Larry Donald KO 2 Bruce Johnson
Tex Cobb KO 3 Paul Presley
Dannell Nicholson KO 1 Jordan Keepers
Dannell Nicholson KO 1 James Holley
Mark Gastineau KO 6 Tim Anderson

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Norbert Ekassi KO 6 Jean Chanet
Andrew Maynard KO 7 Charles Price
Markus Bott KO 1 Jeff Bowman
Massimiliano Duran KO 2 Ray Bedwell
Dave Russell W 12 Dan Murphy
Ralf Rocchigiani KO 5 Rick Enis

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Frank Tate W 10 Ramzi Hassan
Anthony Hembrick KO 5 Pat Alley
Isaias Lucero W 12 Saul Montana
Willie Edwards KO 1 Victor Potekhin

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Darrin Van Horn W 10 Ricky Thomas
Vincenzo Nardiello W 12 Fidel Castro Smith
Mickey Rourke KO 4 Terry Jesmer

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Reggie Johnson KO 8 Ki Yun Song
(Retains WBA Title)
Francesco Dell'Aquila KO 2 Lester Yarborough
Anthony Andrews KO 4 Vidol Rawlins
Raul Marquez KO 1 Andre Brown

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Hitoshi Kamiyama
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
John David Jackson KO 10 Michele Mastrodonato
Verno Phillips W 10 Michael Ward
Laurent Boudouani KO 3 Jean-Claude Fontana
Steve Martinez KO 4 Joseph Harris
Jaime Llanes KO 3 Jorge Vaca

WELTERWEIGHTS

Buddy McGirt W 12 Genaro Leon
(Retains WBC Title)
Pat Barrett KO 1 Sam Gervins
Ludovic Proto W 8 Bryan Brown
David Gonzalez Tech. Dec. 7 Wilberforce Kiggundu
Stephan Johnson KO 7 Manuel DeLeon
Eamonn Loughran KO 3 Donovan Boucher
Eamonn Loughran KO 2 Desbon Seaton
Hiroyuki Yoshino KO 8 Takeo Takuma
Rusty Derouen W 8 Delfino Marin
John Duplessis W 10 Clarence Coleman
Skipper Kelp W 8 Walid Underwood
Clarence Coleman W 10 Tomas Diaz
Kenny Gould KO 10 Derrick McGuire
Shane Riley KO 3 Pablo Pucay
Michael Benjamin W 10 Raul Frank

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Juan Coggi KO 8 Morris East
(Regains WBA Title)
Carlos Gonzalez KO 1 Rafael Ortiz
Hector Lopez D 10 Guillermo Cruz
Valery Kayumba KO 3 Amancio Castro
Vincent Phillips KO 1 Julio Flores
David Kamau W 12 Tim Brooks
Alberto Cortes W 10 Ramon Zavala
Roger Mayweather KO 3 Gilberto Flores
Carl Griffith W 10 Tony Rutledge
Homer Gibbins KO 7 Kenny Vice
Rodolfo Aguilar KO 2 Mike Powell

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Fred Pendleton W 12 Tracy Spann
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Rafael Ruelas KO 1 Roberto Burgos
Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Paris Alexander
Jorge Paez KO 2 Al Castro
Eduardo Molina KO 2 Marciano Hernandez
Fidel Avendano W 10 Mario Fuentes
Chad Broussard KO 2 Jackie Beard
Billy Schwer KO 3 Mauricio Aceves
Jeff Mayweather D 10 Jorge Romero
Fabian Tejeda KO 7 Julio Ruiz
Renaldo Carter W 10 Jose Castro
Kelcie Banks W 8 Jose Herrera

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Eugene Speed KO 2 Pedro Arroyo
Tiger Ari KO 10 Takayaki Akagi
Ed Hopson W 10 Alvaro Bohorquez
Neil Haddock W 10 Harry Escott
Joseph Murray KO 7 Eon Bancroft

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Yung Kyun Park W 12 Ever Beleno
(Retains WBA Title)
Jesse James Leija W 10 Gabriel Castro
Kevin Kelley KO 6 Peter Nieves
Maurizio Stecca W 12 Fabrice Benichou
Luisito Espinosa W 10 Eugeny Burchaq
Freddy Cruz W 8 Lajos Videk
Stephane Haccoun KO 5 Julian Solis

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Rudy Zavala KO 5 Jerome Coffee
Rudy Zavala W 10 Juan Francisco Soto
Richard Duran KO 1 Rene Gamboa
Mohammed Nurhuda D 12 Tony Wehbee
Orlando Fernandez W 12 Felix Camacho

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Junior Jones KO 2 Felix Carrasco
Jung Il Byun KO 4 Suksawat Tow Boonlert
Jesus Sarabia KO 2 Diego Avila

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Julio Borboa KO 12 Robert Quiroga
(Wins IBF Title)
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 6 Angel Rosario
Armando Salazar KO 4 Juan Carazo
Eduardo Ramirez W 12 Miguel Mercedes
Enrique Jupiter KO 4 Kenny Mitchell

FLYWEIGHTS

David Griman W 12 Aquiles Guzman
(Wins WBA Title)
Isaias Zamudio W 10 Abner Barajas
Alberto Jimenez KO 9 Julio Cesar Acevedo
Jesus Rojas W 10 Rafael Torres
Francis Ampofo W 12 James Drummond

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Raul Rios KO 10 Alex Montiel
Eric Griffin KO 2 Eliseo Gomez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Pretty Boy Lucas W 12 Alfredo Xeque
Kermin Guardia KO 5 Uriel Londono

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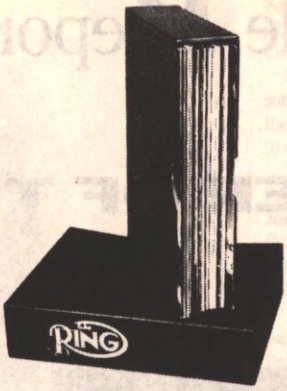

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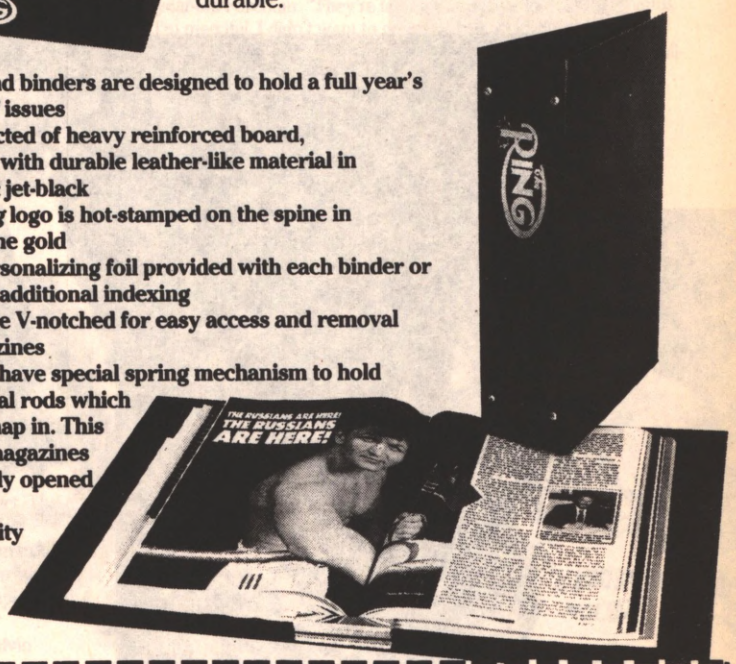

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Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Julio *who?*

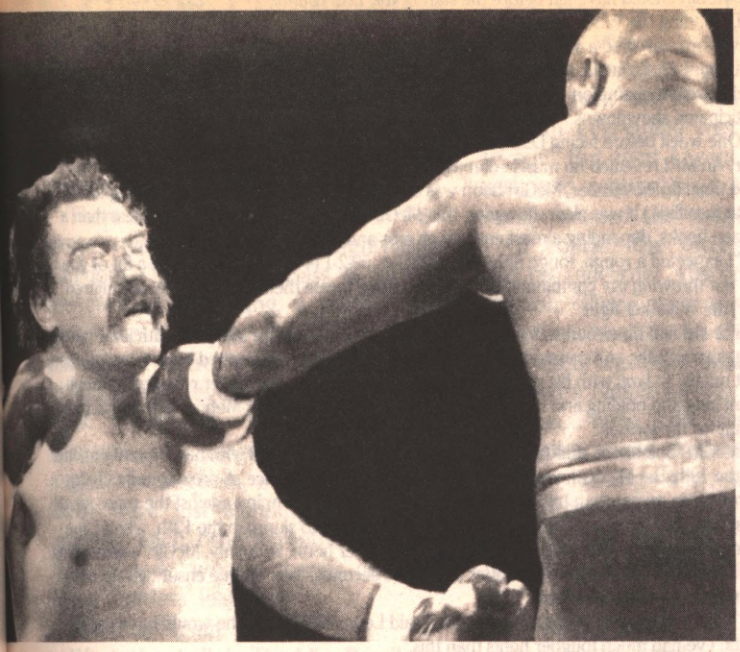
Julio Who is a 23-year-old Mexican with an unconfirmed record and the most provincial of reputations. But last November, Borboa outpointed previously unbeaten flyweight Al Kotey in Philadelphia, and in January, he stopped another undefeated fighter, defending IBF junior bantamweight king Robert Quiroga, in the Texan's hometown of San Antonio. That reputation is about to grow in a hurry.

Punchers are always welcomed in the lighter weight classes, and Borboa hits with passion. That he was able to outbrawl the dangerous Kotey was a surprise; that he stopped a veteran champion like Quiroga was even more of a shock. What's next? A knockout of IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales?

We'd have asked Canizales for a response, but all he would have said was, "Julio who?"

Julio Borboa

Coetzer will remember Foreman's jab, not his flab



George Foreman KO 8 Pierre Coetzer

Reno, Nevada—In his fight with Alex Stewart in April 1992, Foreman won a 10-round majority decision. But he took a good deal of punishment, and looked every bit a loser as rivulets of blood poured from his swollen, moon-shaped face. After 279 days of inactivity, Foreman, 258, roared back and cut up Coetzer, 216, with repeated jabs. He won by TKO at 1:48 of the eighth round at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

It is anticipated that in April, Foreman will meet Tommy Morrison, an off-the-floor kayo winner over Carl "The Truth" Williams on the undercard. After the fight, however, Foreman indicated a desire to instead challenge WBC champion Lennox Lewis.

The end came after Foreman, 72-3 (67), knocked down the South African with a hook and a right. Coetzer, 39-5 (27), rose at referee Joe Cortez' count of four, only to absorb five more shots. With Coetzer's nose torn and bleeding, Cortez stopped the bout. (Foreman had been pleading with the referee to intervene as early as round four.)

"Something has to be done about these referees," said the 44-year-old Foreman. "They're taking these guys' lives in their hands. I'm merciful. I didn't want to go crazy and try to hurt him."

Foreman, who is rated first by the IBF, reportedly earned $5-million, while Coetzer, a loser of three straight, received $175,000.

The judges were Keith MacDonald, Doug Tucker, and Patricia Jarman, all from the USA.

(1-16-93)

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Hitoshi Kamiyama

Buenos Aires, Argentina—Hard-punching Argentine southpaw Vasquez, 152, won the vacant WBA junior middleweight title by crushing Kamiyama, 151, before 1,200 fans at the Hector Etchart Gymnasium.

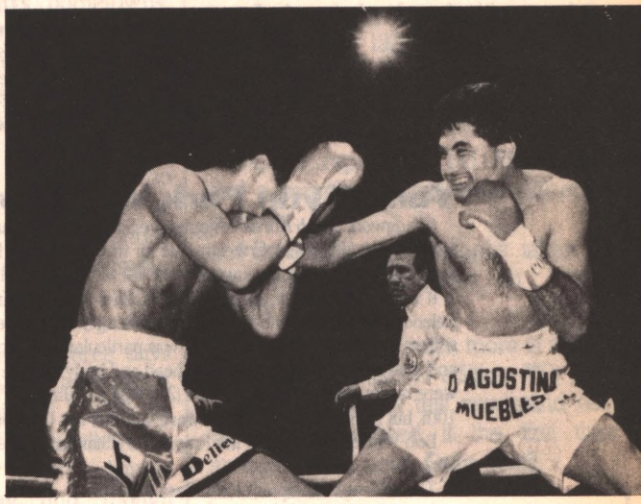
The 26-year-old Vasquez, rated number one, proved far too strong for the fifth-rated Japanese. Boxing aggressively, he connected with quick and solid combinations midway through the first round and drove his opponent to the ropes. Kamiyama dropped to one knee and, upon rising, showed a bad cut under his left eyebrow. Another combination produced knockdown number two, at which point referee Isidro Rodriguez could have stopped the fight. Ten seconds later, Kamiyama, 24-1-1 (14), fell again. The three-knockdown rule was in effect. The time of the stoppage was 2:59.

Vasquez rose to 40-1 (30), with his only loss coming via disqualification to Verno Phillips. His first defense will likely come against either former champion Vinny Pazienza or the top-rated Aaron Davis. Vasquez is the 15th world champion from Argentina.

Judges: Orlando Sam (Panama), Harmodio Cedeno (Panama), and Calvin Inaleich (Trinidad and Tobago).

(12-21-92)

Carlos Irusta



Vasquez-Kamiyama: No drama

Julio Borboa KO 12 Robert Quiroga

San Antonio, Texas—Underdog Borboa, Sonora, Mexico, ruined Quiroga's bid for a record sixth successful defense of the IBF junior bantamweight title by scoring a TKO at 2:37 of the last round before nearly 6,000 fans at the Freeman Coliseum.

Quiroga was fighting before his hometown fans for only the second time since winning the title in April 1990. He was characteristically aggressive and game, but was outpunched throughout. Borboa was especially effective with his left hand, scoring with combinations to the champion's head and body.

By the end of the second round, the crowd was quiet, sensing that their hero was headed for defeat. Quiroga, 20-1 (11), suffered the first of three different cuts over his left eye in the third, and later added a cut on his right eyebrow.

Quiroga's corner was ready to surrender after the 10th, but the fighter begged them to let the bout continue. He pawed at his left eye throughout the 11th, and was staggered by a series of lefts in the 12th. Referee Bobby Gonzalez, with the blessing of the ringside physician, finally stopped the contest with 23 seconds remaining.

The fans didn't like the stoppage, showering the ring with cups of beer and soda. After 11 rounds, Borboa, 14-4 (13), led on two cards. Gerald Maltz (USA) had it 106-103, and Pedro Nieto (Mexico) 107-103. Incredibly, Dave McCullough (USA) had Quiroga in front by 106-103. *The Ring* had Borboa ahead by 106-103. There were no knockdowns.

Borboa burst into prominence by upsetting previously unbeaten flyweight Al Kotey last November. After defeating Quiroga, he indicated that he'd like to make his first defense against the IBF's top-rated contender, countryman Joel Luna Zarate.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

(1-16-93)

Bruce Williams

Buddy McGirt W 12 Genaro Leon

New York, New York—Pernell Whitaker left The Paramount before the fight even started. McGirt should have left before the start of the 12th round.

Defending the WBC welterweight title for the second time, McGirt, 147, Hauppauge, New York, survived a scary finish to score a unanimous decision over mandatory challenger Leon, 147, Culiacan, Mexico. By doing so, he saved his March 6 date with IBF junior welterweight champion Whitaker, who will be rising in weight for one of the year's most anticipated showdowns.

One week before facing Leon, McGirt almost pulled out because of pain in his left shoulder. An MRI revealed no muscle damage, so he opted not to postpone the fight for a second time. (In November, McGirt-Leon was called off when the champion was diagnosed with tonsillitis.) It was clear, however, that McGirt was handicapped; he threw less than a dozen hooks, depending almost entirely on jabs and straight rights.

"I expected a rough, tough fight," said McGirt, 59-2-1 (44). "I know I scared a lot of you by not throwing my combinations, but I was afraid to use them for fear of [being injured for] the Whitaker fight."

For the first nine rounds, McGirt was masterful, peppering his taller foe with jabs, moving purposefully, and countering with short rights. Leon never stopped his forward motion, but unable to land with his powerpunches, the number-one contender resorted to rabbit punching and holding and hitting. In round three, referee Arthur Mercante Jr. deducted a point for the former.

McGirt took all the middle rounds and bloodied Leon's mouth with his pinpoint punches. In the 10th, the Mexican was finally rewarded for his persistence. A prolongued rally featured more misses than hits, but he managed to pin the champion against the ropes for the first time. McGirt reestablished control in the 11th, only to slump in the 12th, when Leon connected with a right and a hook, and then another hook. Suddenly, McGirt was hanging on. The welters went toe to toe over the last 40 seconds, their fatigue ensuring that both would last until the final bell.

"I figure if I had a couple more rounds," said Leon, 42-3-2 (37), "he would have lost the fight. I've had much tougher fights than this."

Bob Logist (Belgium) scored 117-114, Carol Castellano (USA) 117-111, and Abraham Chavarria (Mexico) 118-113. *The Ring* favored McGirt by 118-110.

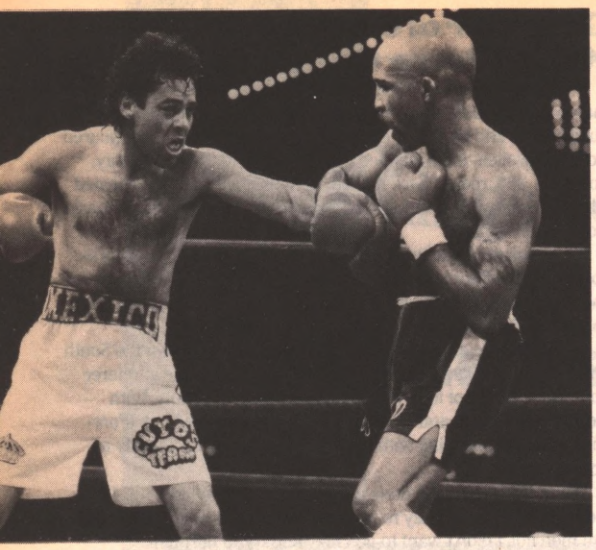
The fight drew an enthusiastic and near-capacity crowd of 4,560, a record for The Paramount and its predecesor, the Felt Forum.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing

Television: USA Network

(1-12-93)

Steve Farhood



Leon gave it the old Mexican try

Yung Kyun Park W 12 Ever Beleno

Changwon, South Korea—Aggressive South Korean Park, 125½, displayed both his ferocity and durability in retaining the WBA featherweight title for the sixth time. His southpaw opponent, a highly touted and unbeaten Colombian with a shining kayo record, left no mark until biting the champion on the shoulder in the 12th round.

It was a monotonous affair, with Park, 24-1-1 (13), continually taking the initiative and Beleno backing up. Beleno, who became the mandatory challenger after Americans Kevin Kelley and Tom Johnson were either unwilling or unavailable to face Park, was particularly disappointing. He allowed the crouching Park to crowd him and land roundhouse blows to the head and body, and he only occasionally responded with combinations that were rarely accurate. Beleno, 23-1 (21), was penalized for repeated holding in the eighth. He rallied to take the 10th, but Park kept chugging forward, and the last two rounds belonged to him.

Bob Watson (USA) and Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand) scored 117-112, and Jesus Celis (Venezuela) 115-114, all for Park.

The referee was Japan's Kazumasa Kuwata.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions

(12-19-92)

Joe Koizumi

Reggie Johnson KO 8 Ki Yun Song

Boise, Idaho—Imagine the postfight party they must have had in downtown Boise: WBA middleweight champion Johnson, who's from Houston, Song, who's from South Korea, and undercard winners Ditau Molefyane, Rafael Ruelas, and Tex Cobb, who are from South Africa, Mexico, and East Mars, respectively. With conversation virtually impossible, everyone probably sat around and watched Tex try and eat 1,000 french fries.

Johnson didn't have much of an appetite, because earlier at the Boise Center, he had already been fed a potato in the eighth-ranked Song. As the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation champion, Song automatically qualified for the WBA top 10. The title of best middleweight in those parts, of course, is tantamount to being rated the best jockey in the National Basketball Association.

Song, 159, Seoul, had nine fights of pro experience, and, pitted against a slick southpaw like Johnson, he was stumped. As a result, he repeated his best move of the night over and over: Whenever Johnson, 160, would strike with a sizzling combination, the Korean would hold his gloves out in disdain as if to say, "Is that all there is?"

What there was was more than enough. With Song, 7-3-2 (4), handicapped by a seven-inch reach disadvantage and unable to connect with his long punches, Johnson, 33-2-1 (21), countered to both the head and body. By the fifth, the 26-year-old challenger's left eye was swollen, and by the sixth, he was absorbing a steady battering. When Johnson began the eighth with a right-left and four consecutive hooks to the ribs, referee Luis Rivera stepped in. At the same moment, a towel was tossed into the ring by Song's corner. The time of the stoppage was the 40-second mark.

Koreans are now 0-20 in trying for world titles in the USA.

The judges were Gustavo Padilla (Panama), Rafael Ramos (USA), and Oscar Perez (USA).

(1-19-93)■

Freddie Pendleton

(Continued from page 39)

Say what you want about Pendleton, but don't accuse him of being full of himself. He could *never* get his fill.

There is a certain symmetry to Pendleton ruling a third of the lightweight kingdom. The weight class is already the cockiest in boxing, a place where arrogance is a prerequisite for admittance, and there is an overabundance of egos, alter egos, and altars built to egos. (Pendleton, Tony Lopez, Joey Gamache, and Jorge Paez could stage a great round-robin, even if the four of them were just standing around and insulting each other's mothers.) It is a light brigade whose charge cries out for a Fearless leader.

But then again . . .

What the hell is Freddie Pendleton doing *anywhere near* a world championship? After four pro fights, he was 1-3. *(Okay, the pro game is a big adjustment, he's only 19, give him time.)* After 25 fights, he was 12-12-1, and had lost to unforgettables Bobby Johnson and Ricky Young. *(Yeah, but he kayoed Tyrone Trice in one round.)* After 42 fights, he was 23-16-3, but still losing to pugs like John Montes. *(But he beat Bramble and Mayweather, and "Sweet Pea" Whitaker may give him a title shot.)* After the Whitaker fight, he was applauded for his impressive showing, he was *still* uncrowned, and he was 24-17-3. *(Freddie, you've had a good career, and we don't want you to get hurt. Maybe you should think about . . .)*

"There's only one time I ever really thought about giving it up," the 30-year-old Pendleton says. "That was when I fought Joey Olivera in the Stroh's tournament in 1986."

Pendleton dropped a split decision at the Fabulous Forum, but what exactly happened in the bout's final seconds is open to debate. Pendleton says he had Olivera hurt and ready to quit, that referee Dr. James Jen-Kin was waving his arms to stop the bout, and that when the ref heard the pro-Olivera crowd react angrily, he changed his mind and let the action continue. The British *Boxing News* account of the bout, however, says that Olivera turned away to complain about being thumbed, and that after the ringside doctor was called in, Olivera himself insisted that he be allowed to continue.

"I fought as hard as I could, and after that fight, my trainer, Larry Kent, came down on me," Pendleton says. "He was yelling that I should have knocked the guy out early. I didn't need to hear that. I was so disappointed with everything that I just wanted to quit. But then I went home, took a rest, and remembered how much my family needed the money."

Of course, the money. His master and his redeemer. His problem and his solution. There was never very much of it, but the little bit that was offered was often the only wind current that directed a career forever adrift in choppy seas. Phone calls would come, and Pendleton would drop whatever it was he was holding—a newspaper, a jump rope, a basketball—and head to the airport, the bus terminal, or the car. Regardless of who held the contract, fate and luck—both bad and good—were his real managers.

He fought terribly and brilliantly, clearly lost fights he should have won, got jobbed in other guys' hometowns, and knocked off mouthy prospects who assumed his record guaranteed an easy night's work. He toiled in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Lafayette, Louisiana, and spoiled in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Santo Domingo. Managers who didn't care threw him into fights he shouldn't have taken, and promoters who considered him dangerous wouldn't give him the fights he wanted the most.

He faced Jimmy Paul on three days notice, hit the floor twice, and lost a decision. For the promise of $5,000, he walked right out in the middle of a pickup hoop game in his Philadelphia neighborhood one day, and, though out of shape, headed right to Detroit for a fight with unbeaten prospect Tyrone Trice the next night.

"I knew I had good power in my right, so if I caught him early, I could get him out of there," Pendleton explains. Trice was caught early, and three knockdowns later, he *was* out of there—in the first round.

Pendleton's potent right hand makes his fights unpredictable (he blew out Sammy Fuentes in *15 seconds),* but so do his shaky chin and tendency to cut. All three of those traits played a part in his first meeting with Spann, in Reno last August. After a left dropped Pendleton in round one, he rebounded to rock Spann with a right to the body and another to the head in the second. But an accidental butt opened a cut

(Continued on page 54)

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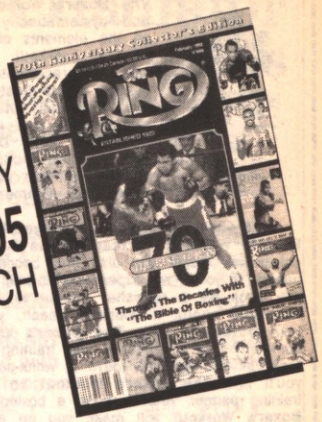

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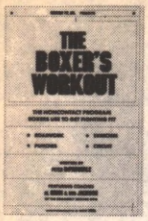

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Freddie Pendleton

(Continued from page 53)

above Pendleton's right eye, the fight was stopped and ruled a technical draw, and the IBF title remained vacant.

January in Atlantic City can be brutal, but not nearly as brutal as the rematch (for which Pendleton was paid a career-high $75,000) promised to be. With the two hardest hitters in the division squaring off, the forecast called for plenty of thunder, and the chin-chill factor sent shudders through ringsiders. If there was any consolation, it was the fact that, unlike last time, there'd be reign before dawn.

The sequel started almost exactly as the first meeting, with southpaw Spann's left rattling Pendleton in the opening stanza. Pendleton, 135, stayed on his feet this time, and in the second, he hurt Spann, 135, with a crisp right. By round three, Pendleton was opening his mouth and bulging his eyes to mock his rival's power. Though Spann controlled rounds four and five, it was Pendleton, all guile and smile, whose solid punches were inflicting the most visible damage.

"I frustrated him," Pendleton says. "I get guys thinking of everything except what they have to do. All they say to themselves is, 'I want to level this joker.' "

In the sixth, Pendleton, 33-17-4 (22), gained the advantage with a series of chopping rights. It was an edge that he wouldn't relinquish. Spann, 27-2-1 (21), forced the action continually, but his strategy of marching ahead and winging nuclear-tipped lefts was far too predictable. Relying on the savvy one stockpiles after encounters with the Pauls, Mayweathers, and Whitakers, Fearless Freddie frustrated Spann with a mixture of sharp counters, timely holding, and so much wrestling that the WWF title, not just the IBF belt, could have been on the line.

In the 12th, a Pendleton left wobbled Spann to the ropes, and he sat on the second strand as Pendleton pounded away. Just when it appeared that referee Randy Neumann might intervene, Spann jabbed back, and he survived until the bell. He raised his arms in triumph, but seemed to be the only person in the showroom who thought he'd won.

The three people whose opinion mattered awarded Pendleton the unanimous decision by counts of 117-111 (Jean Williams and Gary Merritt) and 116-112 (Ric Bays). *The Ring* scored for Pendleton, 117-111.

"Put up or shut up," says Pendleton. "I never shut up, but you saw how I can put up."

But whatever kept a guy like Pendleton from just giving up and packing up? How does a fighter with 17 losses, a guy who has been more dissatisfied with his managers than George Steinbrenner, who has logged more miles than Charles Kurault, been booed more often than Sinead O'Connor, and been stuck in drab motel rooms with parking lot views more times than he can remember, talk himself into sucking it up one . . . more . . . time? How did he keep on keepin' on for all these years?

He didn't listen to motivational cassettes or walk around humming songs about ants and rubber-tree plants. No, Pendleton relied on his two favorite supreme beings, God and himself, to get him through. God provided the latitude, Freddie provided the attitude.

No matter what would happen, Pendleton would convince himself that he was still the best lightweight on the globe. He saw the glass as half-full even when it had been emptied, smashed against a wall, and was laying shattered in a million tiny pieces on the floor. Talk to him and you discover that there are only three legitimate, excuse-free, level-playing-field defeats out of the 17 on his record: kayo losses to Montes and Frankie Randall, and the decision defeat to Paul.

"It was in God's plan for me to be a world champion," he says. "I believed in God and myself, and my arrogance got me through. If I got beat, I'd convince myself that I didn't lose or that the fight didn't happen. I'd mention it to my friends once, then we'd never talk about it again. I'd always talk about how good I was, that's all. Lots of times, that brought me back from feeling depressed."

"Freddie's always had this personality," says Ron Katz, a matchmaker who has worked on and off with the fighter for seven years. "Part of his psyche is that he has to constantly reassure himself of his talent. He's not nasty, like a Camacho type, but he's a very cocky kid."

"The toughest part all those years was seeing guys I knew weren't as good as me get title shots," Pendleton adds. "Now I have the title and every-

body is going to know I'm champion. I earned the right to voice myself because of everything I went through."

Exercising his right, Pendleton wasted no time assessing his future competition:

● *Tony Lopez:* "Lopez is a joke. He wasn't even a good junior lightweight; he was just skatin' by."

● *Miguel Angel Gonzalez:* "He hasn't proven himself, and he's been down a couple of times. Last fight, he beat Darryll Tyson. Big deal. What is Tyson, 99 years old?"

● *Joey Gamache:* "No heart for boxing. He shouldn't have been a champion. He shouldn't have even been allowed to *look* at a title belt. This guy should be out looking for a real job."

● *Rafael Ruelas:* "Tough kid who can punch a little. He can fight, but I'd knock him out inside of five rounds."

BREAKING THAT LOSING HABIT

One or two losses can destroy a fighter's dreams. Freddie Pendleton has proved to be an exception. In January, "Fearless Freddie," who has lost 17 times, outpointed Tracy Spann to win the vacant IBF lightweight title. A fight-by-fight recap of the losses Pendleton overcame:

Nov. 5, 1981, Ray Evans	L 4
Feb. 11, 1982, Angel Cales	L 4
Feb. 16, 1982, Rodney Watts	L 4
March 10, 1982, Jerome Coffee	L 8
Oct. 26, 1982, Gerald Hayes	L 8
March 27, 1983, Bobby Johnson	L 8
May 22, 1983, Anthony Fletcher	L 8
April 19, 1984, Hilmer Kenty	L 10
Nov. 14, 1984, Adolfo Medal	L 10
Jan. 19, 1985, Ricky Young	L 10
Feb. 5, 1985, Joe Manley	L 10
March 23, 1985, Frankie Randall	KO by 5
Nov. 20, 1985, Jimmy Paul	L 10
Oct. 7, 1986, Joey Olivera	L 10
Dec. 2, 1986, Shelton LeBlanc	L 10
Nov. 22, 1988, John Montes	KO by 10
Feb. 3, 1990, Pernell Whitaker	L 12

● *Sharmba Mitchell:* "He's irrelevant. The guy just wants to run around. He shouldn't be in a ring, he should be tap-dancing somewhere. Can you believe he fought Rocky Lockridge? *Rocky Lockridge,* a guy who should have retired 20 years ago."

These days, Pendleton has put his career in the hands of the only man he trusts with it: himself. He is self-managed, and will probably defend for the first time against Giovanni Parisi on ABC on March 13. After that, he says he'll try desperately to secure unification fights with fellow champs Lopez (WBA) or Gonzalez (WBC) because "I'm not gonna be one of those champions defending against Frito-Lay and Cap'n Crunch challengers."

Before you ask, let him explain: "Those are the opponents who crumble like a corn chip when they get a big fight. They get stepped on and you hear a snap, like someone's stepping on a bunch of Cap'n Crunch." That's what we thought he meant.

"Even guys like Chavez fight paper fighters," he continues. "He went 11 rounds with a guy I knocked out in 15 seconds. There are two kinds of champions today: guys who look for easy fights, and guys who lose in their first or second defense. They win the title and—bang—they're out of there. Hagler and Duran held the belt for years. If you don't make a bunch of defenses, you never deserved to be champion in the first place."

Pendleton, who has lost just twice in his last 20 fights, believes he can sign that long-term lease on the throne now. Fearless has nothing to fear unless he runs into someone who can box and punch, joke and juke, fight equally well with his fists and his brain, and look *soooooooo* damn good doing it all. In other words, a mirror image.

Tell pretty Freddie Pendleton that there shouldn't be a mirror image for him to stare at any time soon. He'll like hearing that. Though, come to think of it, maybe he won't. ■

Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 43)

If Bowe really wanted to make a statement, he should've dropped all of his title belts into that can and doused them with gasoline. Imagine the world of boxing without the alphabet boys. Hey, I can dream, can't I?

Personally, Lennox, I would've liked to have seen you tell Sulaiman in a nice way to keep his belt, and explain, as you have to me, that a title is only determined in the ring. Not in some back room in Mexico City.

And while I'm sure you didn't expect any of this to happen, it isn't really such a bleak picture. As the WBC champion, you can command higher purses. Not millions more per fight, of course, but a few hundred thousand extra. And by the time you and Bowe fight—that is, if you both keep winning—you'll each receive bigger purses.

I realize that waiting to fight Bowe until some time in 1994 has to make you feel awfully anxious. But look at it

(Continued on page 59)

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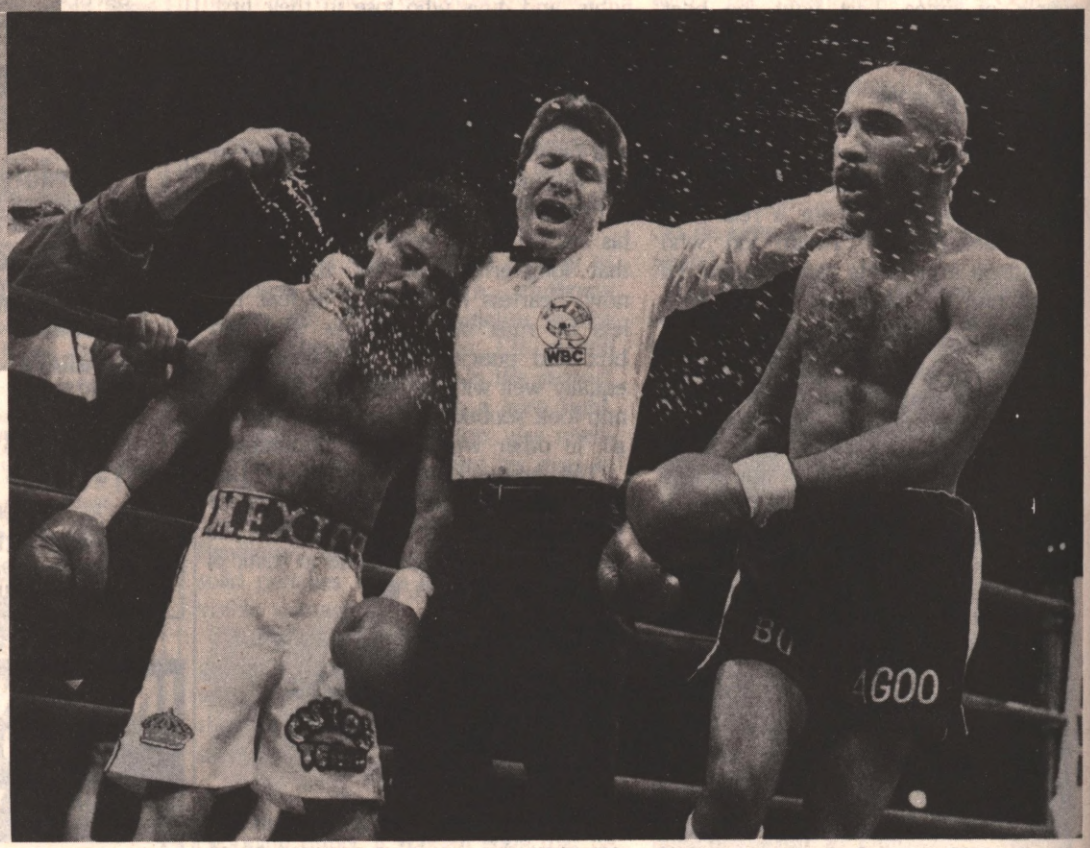
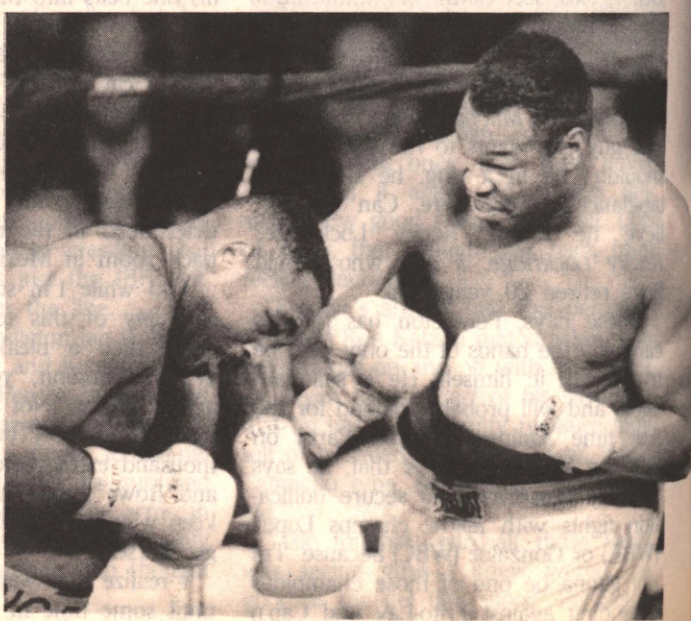


The fight is over, but Mexico's Genaro Leon is still getting hit—by a spongeful of water from Buddy McGirt's manager, Al Certo.



Old-timers update: George Foreman is starring in a TV pilot produced by former fighter Tony Danza (above). Larry Holmes began the year by pounding on Bigfoot Martin for 10 rounds (right).

Left: Guests at the Mark Etess Foundation awards ceremony in New York City included (clockwise from top left) Lennox Lewis, Michael Spinks, Riddick Bowe, Pernell Whitaker, and Buddy McGirt. Below: Mingling at a ***Playboy*** *party in the Big Apple were (from left) Marvis Frazier, Ivana Trump, and Smokin' Joe Frazier.*

Above: Muhammad Ali visits a children's hospital in Oklahoma City. Right: After Vinny Pazienza's comeback win over Luis Santana, the former world champion celebrates with (from left) father Angelo, manager Lou Duva, and trainer Kevin Rooney.

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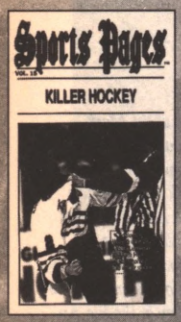

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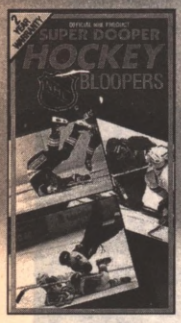

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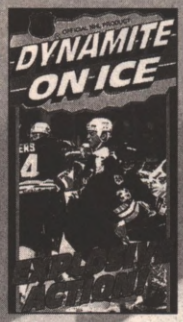

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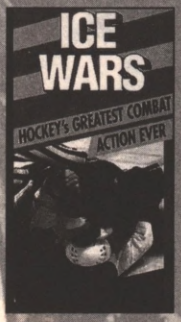

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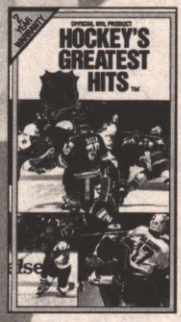

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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 55)

this way: You've come so far since you won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics. Quite frankly, I wasn't so sure you could take Ruddock last October. Not that I didn't think you had the talent, I just figured you were a year or so away from beating a fighter like him.

But you told me before the bout that he was one-dimensional, and that you'd look for "The Razor's" weaknesses. And once you found them, you were going to tear him apart. Well, you knocked Ruddock down three times before dispatching him in the second round.

Stop! I know what you're thinking, Lennox: *Joe, I told you so.* But did I listen at the time? In the immortal words of the late John Belushi, "No-o-o-o-o-o." In fact, I predicted Ruddock would knock you out in round four. To me, you were a strong fighter with decent skills, but I just didn't think you could do what you did to Ruddock. In my defense, until you fought Ruddock, you had not one decent opponent on your resume. No matter, though. You won.

Then came all the confusion with your manager, Frank Maloney. He reportedly offered Bowe $12-million to fight you in England. But no sooner had Maloney made his offer than there was talk of Bowe fighting Foreman. Newman, I'm sure, figured a Bowe-Foreman fight would yield a bigger payday. But those talks broke off just days after Bowe dethroned Holyfield.

Then the Bowe-Lewis talks resumed. Newman offered you $3-million and said, "We'll see how much they want this fight, and how much they believe they can win it."

You replied that the offer was an insult. Sure, Rock was trying to short-change you, but he held all the cards. There's an axiom in boxing that you and Maloney had better learn: If you get the chance to fight for the title, take it.

So what if you were only being offered $3-million. That's a sizable chunk of change. Even so, Maloney balked and said he wanted $5-million.

You and Frank argued for a while, and by the time you got around to

(Continued on page 60)

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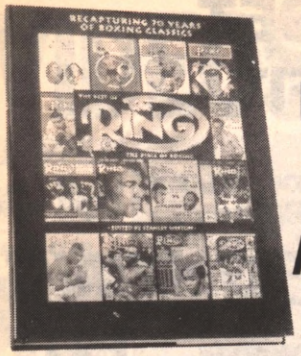

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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 59)

saying you'd accept the offer, Newman took it off the table. I don't think he wanted Bowe to fight you anyway. You're too risky an opponent at this time. He'd like Bowe to make a few million the easy way before meeting a truly serious challenger.

The talk now is that you and Bowe won't fight until sometime well into '94. I'd like to suggest a strategy that might help you secure a fight much sooner.

First, you have got to out-Rock Rock Newman. I'm not suggesting that Maloney jump on a ring apron during one of your fights, put a stranglehold around your opponent's neck, and yank him over the top strand. That's Newman's forte. But Maloney at least has to make sure you attend all of Bowe's defenses. After each bout, you should point out the caliber of challenger Bowe has fought and reiterate that the WBA/IBF champion broke his agreement to fight you. Then ask the media if this is what a true heavyweight champion is supposed to be. You know the media by now; anything an athlete says, it prints. Take my word for it, you'll get reams of press.

Also, every time Bowe fights a bum, you must not only point it out, but also fight a top-10 contender. And I don't mean Tommy Morrison or Ray Mercer. For starters, challenge Evander Holyfield. He'll want to make amends for losing the title to Bowe, but I'm sure you can knock him out in seven rounds. Think about *Lewis KO 7 Holyfield* on your record. Compare that to Bowe's ledger, which reads *Bowe W 12 Holyfield.*

When fight fans see the result, they'll realize, if they haven't already, that Bowe couldn't knock out the smaller man. But you will have done so, and you'll be on your way to convincing the powers-that-be that your WBC belt is more legitimate than they first thought.

Next, go after Michael Moorer. Sure he's a southpaw, and no heavyweight wants to face a left-handed opponent. But Moorer often fights on the inside, where his lefty stance won't be troublesome. Remember, too, that Moorer has a questionable chin. With your right cross, you could stop him in, say, four rounds. Beat these guys and throw the wins in Bowe's face. He'll have to fight you out of sheer embarrassment.

Meanwhile, fights with Holyfield and Moorer ought to yield you a $10- or $15-million return. Not bad, eh? And if George Foreman and Larry Holmes come around panhandling for your slice of the title, you must laugh at them and tell them to beat it because Lennox Lewis is never going to fight old-timers. You want to be known as a heavyweight who never ducked the best of his era.

Now, let's see. What else can you do to get Bowe's attention?

How about setting up a permanent training camp in the United States, preferably near New York City, the media capital of the world. There you can do radio and TV sports shows galore, and make yourself available to the city's four major newspapers. You're a likable guy; let the people get to know you better. And every so often, hammer home the point that Bowe is not worthy of the crowns he wears.

I think you have to at least consider what I'm saying. After all, before you stopped Ruddock, you told everyone that you wanted to prove yourself. You said there were a lot of unanswered questions about Lennox Lewis, that you've been knocking at the door. After stopping Ruddock, you said you finally kicked the door down. It's now time to step through the threshold. This is your chance to do what you've got to do for yourself and for your title-starved countrymen, who haven't had a heavyweight champion since 1899.

These people believe their heavy wait is over. They point to your size. Your power. Your speed. And they never miss a chance to point out your solid defense. From London, to Birmingham, to the tiny cotswold village of Wroxton, the locals cheer you on as you pursue what for them has been the impossible dream.

So think about my suggestions. And imagine for a moment what would happen if you beat Bowe and became the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. If you think the English are mobbing you now, wait until you fasten three belts around your waist and try to step out the front door of your house. If you're like every other boxer who dreams about owning the most prestigious title in sports, I'm sure you won't mind all the attention.

Well, Lennox, that's all I have to say for now. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Oh, yes. If you do indeed follow my master plan and it leads you to a successful title shot in 1993, slip me a little something next time we see each other. Like maybe a mil.

Just kidding, Lennox. Keep punchin'.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Tintle ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

a broken hand.

"My belief was he would have gone all the way, and if we had kept him amateur, he would have gone all the way to the Olympics," said Scott.

Coley turned pro in July 1990, and his upward trajectory has been remarkable. In August 1991, Washington promoter Cleveland Burgess brought a few D.C. fighters down to Charleston, South Carolina, to fill out the undercard of the Darryll Tyson-Lupe Suarez lightweight fight. Coley, 4-0 at the time, faced a tough boxer named Lennell Strohman and stopped him in four. Moretti, on hand for the Madison Square Garden promotion, liked what he saw.

"He took Strohman apart like I've never seen him taken apart," Moretti recalled. "Strohman was a tough kid."

Moretti knew that former *New York Post* boxing writer Mike Marley was looking to manage a fighter and sent him a tape of the bout.

"I just got excited watching him," Marley said. "He has the charisma—even before he gets in the ring. He's got a Tommy Hearns look about him, and a Tommy Hearns body."

Marley reached an agreement with Burgess ("I paid him a modest sum") to step aside, beginning the coalescence of Team Coley, which includes both Scott and Langley.

It hasn't always been smooth—Marley said he and Coley have had a few screaming matches—but mutual respect has always prevailed.

"Here's this white guy from New York; they have to get used to me, and I have to get used to them," Marley said. "It's been a learning process for all four of us."

"Mike Marley knows a lot of people in the boxing game, and I knew I needed that to get ahead," Coley said. "He gave up his sportswriting job for me, I've got to give him a chance. So far it's working out pretty good."

Five fights after beating Strohman, Coley defeated Eric Holland in Philadelphia, convincing Moretti the Garden should sign him. Inside of a year, Coley went from a four-round fighter in Washington, D.C., to an alignment with a high profile New York manager and a two-year, 12-fight deal with the Garden. The fights, eight- and 10-rounders, are tougher now, but Coley has stepped up.

Two bouts have been critical in his development. The first came last June against tough, crude Philadelphia slugger Leo Edwards. Coley went in with an abscessed tooth and a high fever, but complained to no one. Weak and on rubbery legs, he looked worse than at any other time in his career. In the fourth round, Edwards scored a knockdown. Coley had been down once before, in the first round against journeyman Marvin Ladson, but he destroyed him in the second round. This was different. This time he was hurt.

"The Edwards fight was number one because Derrell showed me he could come back from being stung," said Scott. "He wanted a win, not a draw."

Desperate, Coley threw everything at Edwards in the sixth and final round, driving his opponent through the ropes and out of the ring for a kayo.

Three wins later, Coley made his Garden debut a walkout bout. The scheduled eight-rounder didn't make the cable-TV broadcast—the public's loss.

Frank Montgomery, another Philly fighter, had gone nine rounds with Buddy McGirt in 1991, and 10 with rated junior middleweight Vincent Pettway.

"Frank Montgomery was supposed to be such a tough fight for him," Scott said. "He had fought McGirt, and McGirt didn't hurt him."

Coley did, spectacularly sending him—where else?—out of the ring with a hook in the second round.

Marley, Scott, and Langley jumped on Coley like he'd won the world title.

"I was surprised," Coley said. "I was looking forward to going eight. When we train, we don't train for knockouts—just keep setting it up. So, yeah, I was surprised."

At this stage of his career, Coley still has questions to answer. Some observers question his chin, and he has still never fought beyond six rounds. Yet his wide array of offensive skills—a good jab and hook, studious body-punching—are the marks of a quality fighter. And he's always relaxed.

Scheduled to appear on the McGirt-Pernell Whitaker card in March, Coley's reputation can only spread. He senses that huge success is only a matter of time.

"I'm not out to make history, I'm out to win a championship, make some money, and get out as fast as I can," he said. "I'd like to accomplish everything by the age of 30." ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in Washington, D.C.

Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 37)

When De La Hoya turned pro, Alcazar resigned from his job as a sheet metal mechanic for Weber Aircraft in California and devoted all his energies to making his fighter a champion.

"I'm really happy with his performances," said Alcazar. "I cannot tell you exactly what he needs to work on because he hasn't made mistakes yet. We don't have one specific area he needs to work on. I'd like to watch him fight for four or five rounds and then go from there. I saw a difference in his most recent fight. He's starting to settle down a lot more. He showed me patience, he was picking his shots."

So are Nelson and Mittleman. They've shrewdly assured their fighter regular TV exposure in one form or another. De La Hoya debuted on Prime Ticket, and then fought on pay-per-view and ESPN. He has two ABC fights scheduled, and another pay-per-view date (the Carbajal-Gonzalez card) that will carry him through May. Their plan is to keep De La Hoya active and visible.

"We're trying to use the best of a lot of fight plans," said Nelson. "We want to keep him busy similar to the way Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson were kept busy early in their careers. And we're looking at Sugar Ray Leonard as an example of the right things that were done for an Olympic champion."

(Continued on page 63)

'60s & '70s ISSUES

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Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 61)

Leonard's career, in and out of the ring, was indeed handled brilliantly. But there is no set formula for success. Can't-miss kids have missed. Mark Breland and Paul Gonzales, gold medalists from the Olympic Class of '84, never fulfilled the expectations others set for them. And the biggest success stories from the Class of '88—Riddick Bowe, Roy Jones, and Michael Carbajal—all took home silver medals.

Similar to the early stages of Leonard's career, Nelson and Mittleman are trying to find opponents who will show De La Hoya a little bit of everything—but not more than he can handle. He's already faced a southpaw, Clifford Hicks, and knocked him out in one round. By the time he challenges for a world title, he should be well-versed in the intricacies of the sweet science.

"Gerry Cooney was handled tremendously well from an economic standpoint," said Nelson. "But he was never given time to develop as a pro fighter. We'll have to balance the two. The fact is, Oscar will have to develop. We might be taking a certain amount of risk, but because we have so much confidence in Oscar's ability, we'll take those small risks."

Team De La Hoya seems to be proceeding without trepidation. They have boldly set their sites on any of *nine* world champions.

According to Nelson, De La Hoya, who walks around at 134 pounds, is a natural lightweight. But the manager says he could just as easily fight at junior lightweight (130 pounds) or junior welterweight (140).

The initial plan called for De La Hoya to challenge for a world title within the first 18 to 24 months of his pro career. Now, his managers feel a title fight could occur as soon as December, just 13 months after he turned pro. But when displaying such outward confidence, there is always a disclaimer.

"We don't want to rush things," said Alcazar. "He still needs to learn how to fight longer. He's ready to fight for a title right now; that's the level he's at. But we prefer to build him. We don't want to make even a minimal mistake with this kind of talent. There's no reason to rush. We're

(Continued on page 65)

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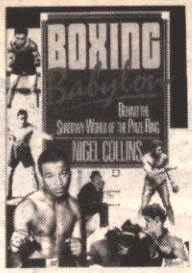

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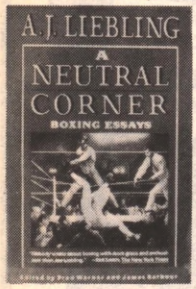

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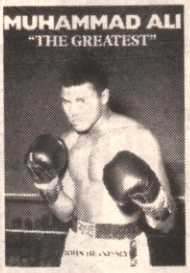

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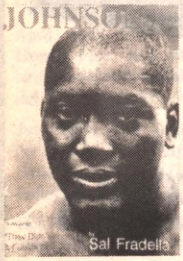

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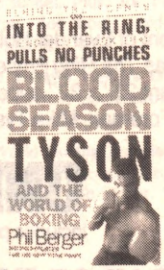

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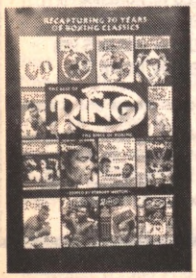

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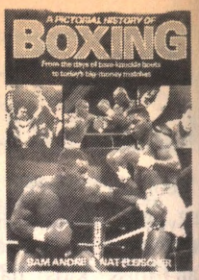

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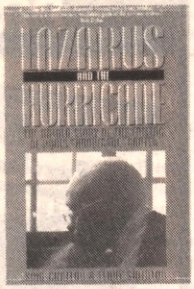

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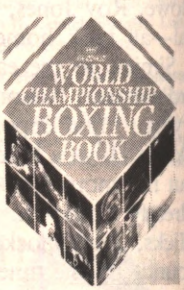

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Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 63)

going to pick the right opponents."

Ultimately, that is where the gamble lies. It is likely that the quality of De La Hoya's opponents, and his performances against them, will determine the Olympian's timetable. Too aggressive or too cautious? There is precedent for moving a fighter quickly. Evander Holyfield won a cruiserweight title in his 12th pro fight, against an established champion in Dwight Qawi, and, as undisputed heavyweight champion, became one of the richest fighters in boxing history. Then, of course, there is Leon Spinks, who beat Muhammad Ali after seven pro fights. Spinks lost a rematch, and his career plummeted.

"We're not going to jump from a six-rounder to a championship fight," said Nelson. "Oscar's time will come. We're looking for a long-term series of championships. Not one championship fight. But we're not going to hold him back from a championship fight if we feel he's ready for it."

Just when he'll be ready will remain open to speculation. For Nelson, Mittleman, and Alcazar, knowing exactly when that time is could mean the difference between writing a happy ending to a fairy tale or filing for Chapter 11.■

Benny Leonard

(Continued from page 47)

on his face. Records? Benny himself disdained them. He was enthralled only by the flavor and pulse beat of the grandstands, and the clinking of coins at the turnstiles. But he'd never enslave himself to anything or anybody for the dollar. Except in one case.

"If anybody says to you he knows a way to keep you from getting hurt—he's your boss—follow him." I remember distinctly those words, and how Leonard, before he became king, had taken the advice of an old-time fight man, as follows: "Watch a little cat, watch his speed, and take note of his instincts."

Leonard, it was said, sparred with a tomcat for a couple of years, and the cat made him king. Uncannily, he had taught the cat poise and stance to give the illusion of a human in delivery of punches. For hours on end, Benny would duck and roll to try and evade the lightning-swift thrusts. He wasn't satisfied until he could keep pace with the little animal.

In that era, when he celebrated the loud '20s by dancing a dozen of the richest steps the fight game ever knew, and earned more money as a lightweight than heavyweights do now, and accumulated more than a half-million dollars without dropping from his feet, Benny promised that he would glide his way out of boxing and become a grade-A businessman.

"I want to settle in an easy chair and talk to people; I want to rest and get fat and just keep talking," he'd say. Always the pleasant, easy-going one, the center of attraction, he made people his life work. He had shown them an incomparable fighting style for 18 years before retiring as undefeated lightweight champ, and now he would tell them all about it. During the next 20 years, he spent a lot of time talking, but he couldn't quite leave the boxing game.

He finished at last in 1947, as a referee. Still on his feet. Still dancing—in the St. Nicholas ring in New York. He was smiling at that moment, when someone at ringside shouted, "Good God, Benny's down!" He succumbed to a heart attack. Never before had the patrons seen him topple. It was a sight they would never forget. The very thing that hundreds of opponents, and the Great Depression, had failed to do, a party upstairs finally achieved. Knocked Benny out! His boxing know-how didn't count, or perhaps he'd grown too fat to use it. Someone else later said, "On what other scene would he have wished to die?" And still another: "He'll talk an arm and leg off of them, wherever he goes. But he'll have some mighty fine tales to unfold."

Among them would be the story of the young Leonard, coming off the East Side, where his father had been a poor tailor, and begging for something to eat in the way of $10 fights. He used to tell pals that he wanted to grow up around the belly. That's where he needed it most. It was all to come in the form of thousands of people watching him. When the stands were vacant, he would sell his own tickets. If the people weren't getting a

(Continued on page 66)

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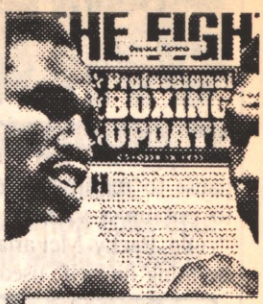

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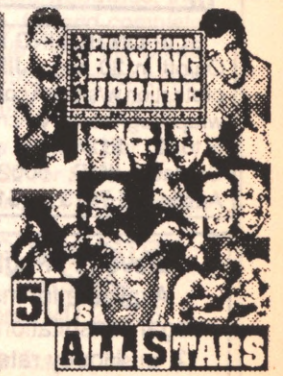

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Benny Leonard

(Continued from page 65)

show, he would apologize to them. If an opponent was dreary, he would pause to reprimand him on his failure to put up a scrap.

Old Packy McFarland, a mighty little thing himself, used to say, "I swear Benny could autograph a punch as it came at him."

The more he fought, the more he ate. But he was training hard. Weight remained at 135. They crowned him at that weight in 1919. He held the crown eight hectic years. While the folks were dancing the Charleston at the newly opened Club 21, and when Broadway was sizzling with flappers, Benny was producing his own steps, right in line with the era, drawing huge crowds to the Garden and Polo Grounds and other arenas. Because it was a dancing era, he was also called "the king of the dancers."

He walked into Club 21 one night. He looked arond at the tuxedoes and said, "How Pa would love to cut just half these outfits. There's a fortune in suits here." He called his father and begged him to come over. A little hunched man of humble bearing joined Benny. "Look, I told you I'd be here someday," Benny said. "And you were so sure I'd never make a businessman."

"But you never will," his pa said.

"But I'm the top businessman in fighting."

"It's still fighting with the fists."

"With the brains, Pa. With the brains."

"You're lucky."

So it was. Benny and his pa arguing throughout that wild era about whether Benny ought to stay in the fight field. He would dump a few thousand dollars in his pa's lap, open a new shop for him, feed dozens of neighbors on the East Side, and still his pa would scowl, "It's a nasty game. I know you are not hurt. But you never can tell. Lots of smart boys are hurt."

Benny would shrug his shoulders. "In my own home, I'm never king."

Pa was right in this respect: Benny was the world's worst businessman—once he left the ring. Every loose Harry along Broadway seemed to clip him. They sold him everything but the Brooklyn Bridge, and one time he joshed a friend in these words, after The Depression had taken him for a good ride: "The only reason, maybe, that I didn't buy that bridge was because I couldn't stand to see so many people jumping off during The Depression."

In keeping with his cry for bigger and better dishes, he opened a restaurant on Broadway after his career was over, and they say he ate up most of his own favorites, his weight going as high as 180. Having no practical idea on running a restaurant, he just dished out food and kept purchasing more. He went broke, of course. It was one of a dozen ventures that sunk him. His old manager, Billy Gibson, had been laughing over it. "And Benny called himself a businessman."

Benny had come to the realization that "when a man hangs out his skull before a couple of fists, nobody deserves a third of his paycheck. More fighters ought to be businessmen."

Nobody had cared to argue this attitude with Leonard, watching the way he had switched from right to left-handed to match Lew Tendler's own style in Philadelphia. Benny, indeed, seemed to own himself as no boxer ever has, before or since. Leonard and Tendler produced the greatest lightweight show of all-time. A throng of admirers had paid $367,862 in 1927 to watch Leonard dance his way to greater fame, and they were shouting, "The king's in a real dancing mood, but he looks different. He isn't the same king. Switched sceptors, changed personalities, or something."

Smart? Who else in ring history ever converted himself so drastically? There was Leonard shuffling against the great southpaw Tendler, moving with lordly agility, until Tendler was swinging at air. Until Tendler realized that Leonard stood alone in this field, either as a right- or left-hander. Other fine boxers had been putty in Leonard's hands. But Tendler had to find out for himself.

To this day, Tendler would say to you, "Benny had a bit of psychology to him. He sort of read your mind. He walked around smiling pleasantly, and soothing you, and soon he knew exactly what you were going to do. At times, he kept his hands down and didn't guard himself. You swung, and it was air you hit, and then suddenly seven little fists came jabbing at your face and eyes, and before you knew what happened, Benny was two feet away, smiling innocently now, as if nothing ever happened."

Cute? Ask the dozen or so boxers whom Leonard used to dare, in these words: "I keep my hands down. Now you swing at me. Try to hit me. No, swing *at* me, not around my head."

It was said he rolled with punches, and countered with the instinct of that cat he had trained with. It was said he had the patience of seven mules and tired his foes down. Many things were said, but nobody ever learned why one boxer carried so many tricks. And

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where had the scars gone? Surely after a million fists had been aimed at him, there should have been some scars. Some old-timers recalled they had seen Benny's kisser bleeding, but they couldn't swear to it.

"It's foolish to get hurt," he'd say. "Rich insurance men don't get hurt. Boxing managers don't get hurt. Why should boxers? After all, boxers are better-trained."

The words, perhaps, were facetious, but the look of sincerity was there every time he expressed the thought. Strolling around the sporting world, as a salesman or a referee or a raconteur, he called everybody *pal* or *buddy*. He slapped the world, so to speak, on the shoulder and thanked one and all for patronizing him at his peak and helping him to wear good clothes and eat well. He still walked with native pride and a simple nature. He still spoke as a native East-sider, however proud he was to have left the haunts that had been a sort of ghetto for him.

At times, he seemed strangely grateful for the torture he'd nurtured as a boy. When the boys were fighting. When little Benny was picked on. When he was brutalized by larger boys. When he made a silent prayer never to get hurt again. When he began his driving search for a way to escape injury, not through fear, but through a good set of weapons.

"Go quit boxing," they told him.

"Go quit yourself," he answered.

"Your hands are too small. You're too nice, and you're always smiling."

It was a good disguise, an effective one, for a very serious makeup while Benny was in the ring.

"Hands too small? Hell, my heart's big and my head's grown mighty sharp," he'd tell them with the stock promise that he'd be king of all the lightweights.

How Benny loved those '20s! The rich excitement veritably got in his blood. He loved the country he roamed. He felt good about boxing, and never came to condemn it, as many of his colleagues did, because he had nothing to condemn. Boxing did not hurt him. He had taken it by the tail, don't forget, so that boxing could not enslave him, as with countless other pugs, but he did feel downright sorry for those who didn't know enough to quit on time, when their brains weren't up to snuff, and their hands not quick enough—and he blamed *them*, not boxing, for whatever befell them. If a manager chiseled them out of hard-worked wages, Benny said again and again, the problem is to take the manager by the tail, too.

Back on the East Side he'd been taught this hard lesson: You've got to look out for yourself. Nobody makes it soft for you in this mad world. There was hardly a soul that lifted a finger for little Benny when he was the butt of bullies in his youth, or when he needed a helping hand following his first few tussles, or when the Depression struck him. Nor did anybody really care for Benny later on, except to use his own fabulous name to further their own ends.

Invariably, he would wink with a thousand little bits of knowledge while spreading his feelings about life.

He might have felt, ludicrous as it seems, that the cat was the one real friend he had known. Maybe, after all, that cat was responsible for his seeing this great big land during the '20s. Benny used to endlessly dream of travel. When he went to England as a famed American, he told the uppity ones of English society that he was "Benny of the East Side," not really Benny the King, as they may have heard, because he wanted every one of them to know that the East Side kid (whom he had never foresaken) had finally emerged from bondage. Economic bondage.

Who could have typified that saga better than Benny? Typified it with so little sacrifice in this mauling, battering, senseless business of pugilism.

Therefore, it was truly strange to see him topple in that New York ring in '47, a hapless and quick victim of heart failure. Whether that was the way he wanted to go, who can tell? But the drumbeaters of fistiana found a dramatically vital story there, even in Benny's death. And he wouldn't have minded it, since he had never interfered with a good embellished yarn.

A fight scribe was heard to later say, "It's not like Benny. Not like him at all. He didn't wait for a decision in the fighting he was refereeing that night. And Benny was not the sort to leave a bout right in the middle."

If there was anything cruel about it, it was simply that a wonderful, electrifying era of sports, or at least a large chunk of an era, seemed to vanish with Benny's passing. It vanished silently. As usual, Benny didn't suffer a single scar through that final "clash." He might have sensed it was curtain time, and once more played it smart. ■

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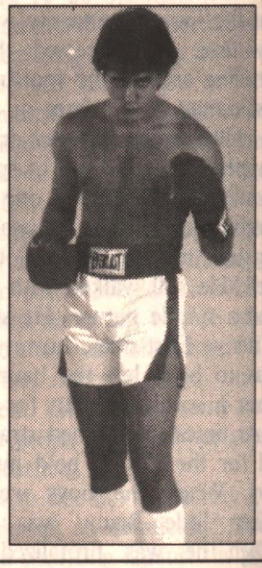

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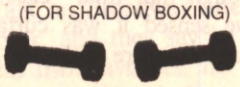

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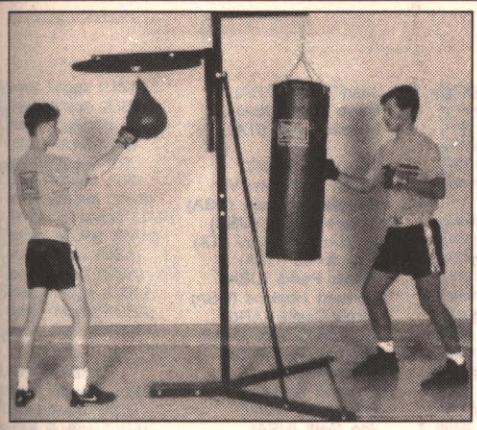

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4280 MULTI-FITNESS TRAINING CENTER.....$334.50

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4305 (L).....$56.10/pair
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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of December

WBA as of November

IBF as of January

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Riddick Bowe (USA)	-	C	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	1	-
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	2	9
Evander Holyfield (USA)	2	3	2
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	3	7	7
George Foreman (USA)	4	4	1
Alex Stewart (JAM)	5	6	10
Alex Garcia (USA)	6	5	6
Tommy Morrison (USA)	7	10	5
Ray Mercer (USA)	8	8	4
Frank Bruno (GB)	9	9	3
Francesco Damiani (ITA)	10	12	-
Frans Botha (SA)	-	-	8

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	-	-	C
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	1	1
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	2	7
Nate Miller (USA)	3	5	3
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	4	3	6
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	5	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	6	-	-
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	4	4
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	9	9	-
Richard Mason (USA)	10	12	-
James Warring (USA)	13	6	5
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	11	7	8
Kenny Keene (USA)	-	8	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	10	-
Uriah Grant (USA)	15	11	2
Jade Scott (USA)	18	-	9
Jason Waller (USA)	24	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Frank Tate (USA)	1	3	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	2	8	-
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Henry Maske (GER)	4	1	2
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	6	-
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	6	-	3
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	-	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	8	5	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	9	-	-
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	10	-	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	14	2	7
Saul Montana (MEX)	18	4	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	7	-
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	11	9	6
Yawe Davis (ITA)	12	10	-
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	11	1
Andrea Maggi (ITA)	-	-	5
Adolpho Washington (USA)	-	12	8
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	-	-	9
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	-	-	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	C	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	8	6
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	2	2	3
Tim Littles (USA)	3	3	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	4	5	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	5	-	-
Frank Liles (USA)	6	4	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	7	-	4
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	8	6	-
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	9	7	-
Thulani Malinga (SA)	10	-	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	1	9
Merqui Sosa (DR)	18	9	11
James Cook (GB)	12	10	-
Jean Tsidjo (FRA)	16	-	5
Steve Little (USA)	17	12	8
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	14	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (VI)	C	-	-
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	C	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	1	4
Roy Jones (USA)	2	2	2
Lamar Parks (USA)	3	4	5
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	4	3	1
Jorge Castro (ARG)	5	10	-
Mike McCallum (JAM)	6	7	3
Thomas Tate (USA)	7	-	-
Steve Collins (USA)	8	6	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	9	-	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	10	11	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	15	5	10
Ki Yun Song (KOR)	-	8	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	11	9	-
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	18	-	6
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	7
Brett Lally (USA)	13	-	8
Frank Grant (GB)	12	-	9

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	7	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	2	2	9
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	6	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	-	7
Carl Daniels (USA)	5	11	3
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	6	4	-
Vincent Pettway (USA)	7	12	2
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	8	-	5
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	9	-	-
Hitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	10	5	12
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	-	1	6
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	3	4
Aquilino Asprilla (PAN)	-	8	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	9	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	-	10	1
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	22	-	8
Andy Till (GB)	14	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	C	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	-
Santos Cardona (PR)	2	-	-
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	3	3	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	4	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	5	1	-
Felix Trinidad (PR)	6	-	7
Glenwood Brown (USA)	7	-	-
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	8	2	9
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	9	6	6
Pat Barrett (GB)	10	8	12
Luis Garcia (VEN)	14	5	1
Buck Smith (USA)	21	7	10
Moises Rivera (PR)	-	9	-
Stephan Johnson (USA)	12	10	4
Kevin Pompey (USA)	13	12	3
Larry Barnes (USA)	27	-	5
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Morris East (PHIL)	-	C	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	C
Terrence Alli (USA)	1	2	1
Greg Haugen (USA)	2	-	-
Hector Camacho (PR)	3	7	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	4	12	8
Charles Murray (USA)	5	-	2
Frankie Randall (USA)	6	-	-

Hector Lopez (USA)	7	10	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	8	-	5
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	9	4	11
Kostya Tszyu (CIS)	10	-	10
Juan Coggi (ARG)	-	1	7
Edwin Rosario (PR)	20	3	-
Ramon Zavala (VEN)	-	5	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	16	6	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	-	8	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	17	9	-
Vince Phillips (USA)	12	11	3
Rafael Pineda (COL)	13	-	4
Rodney Moore (USA)	11	-	6
William Ruiz (COL)	-	-	9

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	C	-
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	4	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	2	3	6
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	3	1	8
Darryll Tyson (USA)	4	5	-
Leavander Johnson (USA)	5	-	-
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	6	-	-
Jean Mendy (FRA)	7	7	7
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	8	-	-
Gussie Nazarov (CIS)	9	2	-
Chad Broussard (USA)	10	11	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	11	6	11
Julio P. Ruiz (PAN)	-	8	-
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	-	9	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	10	9
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	-	-	1
Tracy Spann (USA)	-	-	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	26	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	12	-	5
Sergei Artemiev (CIS)	14	12	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	1	2
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	-	-
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	3	-	9
Harold Warren (USA)	4	2	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	5	8	10
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	1
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	7	6	8
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	8	10	-
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	9	-	-
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	10	11	-
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	-	3	-
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	25	4	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	-	5	-
Narciso Valenzuela (MEX)	16	7	7
John Brown (USA)	20	9	-
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	3
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	29	-	4
Eugene Speed (USA)	11	-	5
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	6

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	2	2
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	-	-
James Leija (USA)	3	7	4
Tom Johnson (USA)	4	3	1
Jose Ramos (DR)	5	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	6	-	-
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	7	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	8	-	9
Febrice Benichou (FRA)	9	-	-
Tony Green (USA)	10	-	6
Ever Beleno (COL)	-	1	5
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	4	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	13	5	10
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	6	3
Giovanni Nieves (VEN)	-	8	-
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	12	9	-
Chris Saguid (PHI)	17	10	-
Baby Rojas (COL)	-	-	7
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	16	-	8

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	-	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	C	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	-	1	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	7	1
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	-	4
Rudy Zavala (USA)	4	-	7
Cesar Soto (MEX)	5	-	6
Luis Mendoza (COL)	6	2	8
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	7	3	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	8	-	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	-	3
Raul Perez (MEX)	10	-	10
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	19	4	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	13	5	-
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	-	6	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	21	8	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	9	-
Arnullo Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Richard Duran (USA)	24	12	2
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	-	5
Nurhuda (INDO)	29	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	C	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	-	C	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	9	12
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	-	9
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	5	5	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	6	2	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	7	3	7
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	8	4	-
Dadoy Andujar (PHI)	9	-	-
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	10	-	11
Abraham Torres (VEN)	-	6	5
Nana Konadu (GHA)	-	7	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	8	-
Jesus Sarabia (MEX)	11	10	-
Clarence Adams (USA)	-	-	2
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Harold Mestre (COL)	28	11	4
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	6
Luis Rolon (PR)	-	-	8
Javier Leon (MEX)	18	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	C	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Joel Luna (MEX)	1	5	1
Greg Richardson (USA)	2	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	3	2	-
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	4	-	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	5	-	5
Armando Salazar (MEX)	6	-	-
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	7	6	2
Carlos Mercado (COL)	8	10	3
Nana Konadu (GHA)	9	-	-
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	10	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	-	1	6
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	23	3	12
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	18	4	-
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	-	7	-
David Marchan (VEN))	-	8	-
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	-	9	-
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	-	-	7
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	24	11	8
Julio Borboa (MEX)	-	-	9
Ole Kiatwonway (THAI)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	C	-	-
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	C	-
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	-	-	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	1
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	3	-	-
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	4	10	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	5	5	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	7	-	-
Hugo Soto (ARG)	8	-	-
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	1	-
Scotty Olson (CAN)	12	2	4
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	22	3	9
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	14	4	-
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	-	6	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	-	7	-
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	19	8	-
Hisashi Tokushima (JAP)	23	9	-
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	-	-	2
Jose Luis Zepeda (USA)	-	-	3
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	20	-	5
Dave McAuley (IRE)	13	-	6
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	7
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	8
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	1	-	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	-	7
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	6	9
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	4	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	5	11	3
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	7	-
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	7	3	8
Domingo Sosa (DR)	8	-	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	9	8	-
Juan A. Torres, (PAN)	10	1	1
Leo Gamez (VEN)	19	2	-
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	-	5	5
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	26	9	-
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	29	10	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	2
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	-	-	6
Pronchai Sitpapom (THAI)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	-	C	-
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	-	-	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	4	1
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	2	2	2
Rafael Torres (DR)	3	5	4
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	4	-	-
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	5	9	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	6	12	-
Kermin Guardia (COL)	7	7	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	8	3	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	9	6	12
Aswin Sithlukmuang (THAI)	10	10	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	-	1	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	12	8	-
Toto Pongswang (THAI)	-	-	3
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	5
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	6
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	-	-	7
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	18	-	8
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	16	-	9
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	19	-	10

Carbajal-Gonzalez

(Continued from page 45)

blank. Flyweight was the last of boxing's traditional eight divisions, fluctuating in the early days of the modern era from 105 to 118 pounds, and finally gaining wide acceptance at 112 pounds in about 1913. The light flyweight class was created by the WBC in 1975, with a ceiling of 108 pounds.

Almost exactly 18 years after Franco Udella and Valentin Martinez squared off in Milan, Italy, for that first light fly title, Carbajal and Gonzalez will rumble in search of their most important victory. To the winner goes a spot in history alongside the biggest little men in boxing, Hilario Zapata, Jung Koo Chang, Pascual Perez, Miguel Canto, and Jimmy Wilde. Either Carbajal or Gonzalez will become the Ali-Leonard-Duran of the flys.

Carbajal has to be the slight favorite. "Little Hands Of Stone" is 27-0 (15) and has held the IBF belt since dethroning Muangchai Kittikasem in July 1990. In December, he hushed criticism that he had lost his knockout power by thrashing mandatory contender Robinson Cuesta in his hometown of Phoenix. He unleashed an inspired body attack and dropped his previously unbeaten rival twice before the slaughter was halted in the eighth round.

"I don't think Mike's reached his peak yet, either," said his brother, Danny, who also trains and manages the champion. As he talked, the two were just beginning their serious work for the unification bout, with 10 weeks of preparation planned. "We're not even thinking about what may be next until we beat Gonzalez. This is the fight we've waited a long time for. This is the fight that shows everyone how great Mike really is."

From March 1991 to October 1992, Carbajal suffered a "slump," during which he failed to kayo six consecutive opponents. He has survived some punishing exchanges with the likes of Kittikasem, Varguez, Jesus Chong, and Jose Luis Velarde, and has been nagged by cuts and other injuries, including a sprained right hand. But he insists he'll be at his peak for Gonzalez.

"He's short, he comes in very open, and he's very easy to hit," the 25-year-old champion said. Added Danny, "I see him as being a strong opponent, but otherwise I don't think there's anything special about Gonzalez."

There are a lot of boxing aficionados who'd disagree, especially in Mexico and California. Gonzalez turned pro after a 23-0 amateur career, and in 1990, the powerful manner in which he's mowed down his opponents earned "The Little Butcher Of Neza" (his hometown is Netzahualcoyotl, a suburb of Mexico City) the 1990 distinction as "boxing's most destructive hitter" from *KO* magazine.

In December 1990, Gonzalez suffered a butt-induced cut on his left eyelid in the third round of his defense against Pascua. Chiquita admitted he panicked as the blood flowed, and Pascua flattened him for a 10-count—the only knockdown Gonzalez has ever suffered.

"I believe it was just a bad night," Gonzalez' manager, Justo Sanchez, sighed at a gym in Neza. "He prepared himself well. But he never had been cut, and when it happened he felt desperate. Then he did not want to get up, or he was not able to get up. Now he is more mature, more complete, more strong."

It has been hand problems, however, and not tender skin, that have plagued the mighty mite from Mexico almost since he won the WBC title for the first time, in June 1989, from Yul Woo Lee. He overcame the pain to record devastating knockouts over the likes of then-number-one contender Luis Monzote (KO 3), Jung Keun Lim (KO 5), and Francisco Tejedor (KO 3). After losing the belt, he's won six straight fights and improved to 35-1 (26). He's made four defenses since regaining the title in June 1991, from countryman Melchor Cob Castro.

"He was not lucky when he lost to Pascua," Mendoza noted, "and he had to make another comeback after two or three operations on his left hand in Los Angeles. Now everything is okay. In his last defense [a 12-round unanimous decision rematch victory over Cob Castro in December], there were no problems, not even a swelling of the hands."

The Lord of the Flys duel was all but finalized when Carbajal showed up at the Forum to watch Gonzalez take out Napa Kiatwanchai in two rounds last September. Both Carbajal and Gonzalez had run out of challenges at 108 pounds, and the weight was getting harder and harder to make. It was time. After Carbajal issued the formal challenge, each man got past his mandatory contender (Cob Castro and Cuesta). The money was settled and the contracts were signed.

"This is a big, big match for both of them," Mendoza said. "Chiquita believes he's finally going to get the recognition he should. He has problems now making the weight. The best thing to do if he didn't get Carbajal was to go up to fly. Now if Chiquita wins this, he has a big offer to defend and unify in Korea against Yuh. He probably will go, because people there like him, he's not afraid to go over, and it will mean another big, big payday. But first he has something to prove to Carbajal."

Gonzalez, who turns 27 on March 22, indicates he isn't looking beyond this, the biggest fight of his career.

"This will be a difficult fight, but I will be ready," he promised. "Carbajal is dangerous. But he never has faced someone like me. Carbajal is a mover, but he likes to stop, and this is fine with me, because then I'll be able to knock him out. This is the fight that I have been waiting for. I will give my fans my very best fight ever."

Boxing fans expect nothing less from either man. Carbajal comes in with a 4½-inch height advantage (5'5½" to 5'1") and quicker hands and feet. But other Latin and Mexican fighters have stung him, and none of them flaunted the strength and power that are the signatures of the switch-hitting Butcher of Neza.

Carbajal figures to use his speed to pile up points, at least early. Gonzalez will concentrate on the body, like most great Mexican fighters, and one or two punches will undoubtedly stray south of the border, for which he'll be warned, and maybe even penalized. Carbajal, proud champion that he is, will retaliate and be sorely tempted to go toe to toe just to prove he's as great a warrior.

This could turn out to be one of the outstanding slugfests in recent memory, certainly befitting the bout's status as a megafight. In the end, heart, skills, and strength will prevail. If the final bell sounds, Carbajal will likely prevail, a la Bowe over Holyfield or Toney over McCallum. But don't expect to hear that bell. Remember instead Chavez against Taylor, Pryor against Arguello, or Sanchez against Gomez.

Watch for Gonzalez' hand to be raised in victory after he drops Carbajal twice in round 10 and survives a fight for the ages. ■

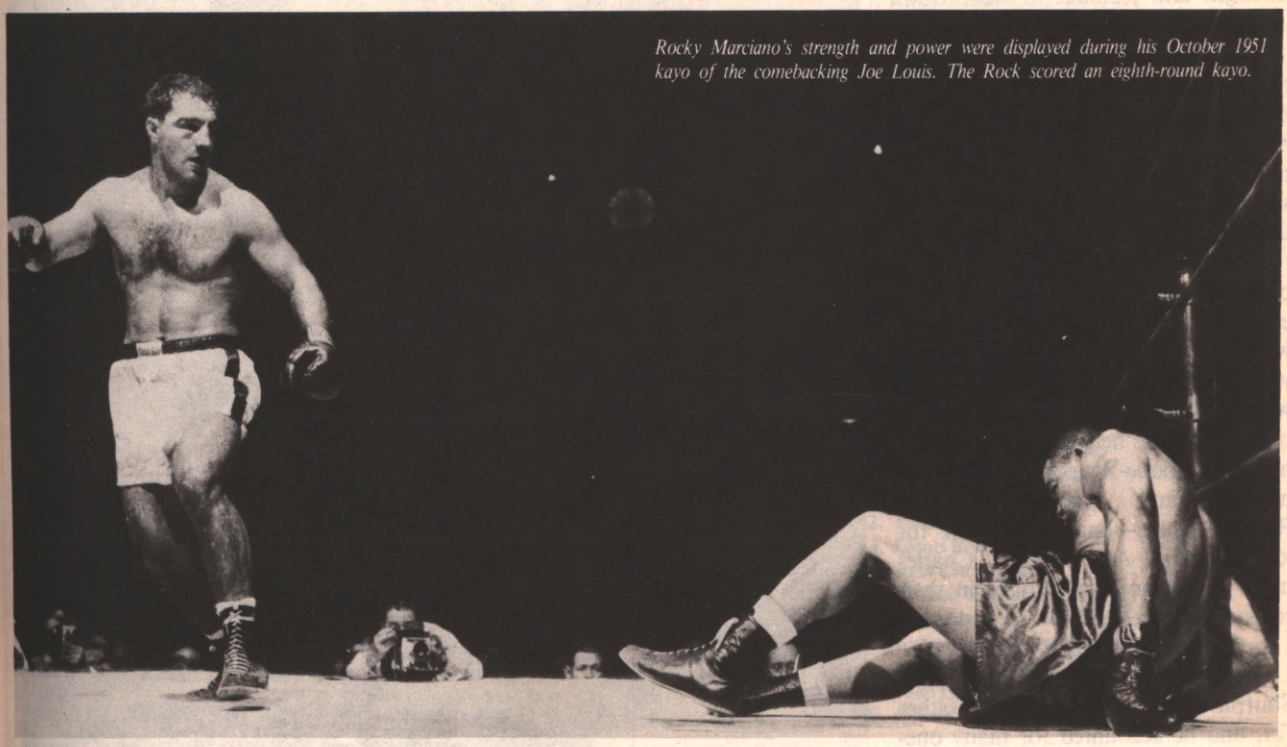
RING CLASSIC

WAS MARCIANO HEAVIEST PUNCHER OF ALL?

Jersey Jones Rates Louis, Dempsey, Baer At Top For Sheer Power

From The Ring, January 1970

By Jersey Jones



Rocky Marciano's strength and power were displayed during his October 1951 kayo of the comebacking Joe Louis. The Rock scored an eighth-round kayo.

One of the simplest ways to start an argument among boxing authorities is to propose the question: Who was the hardest-hitting world heavyweight champion the ring has produced?

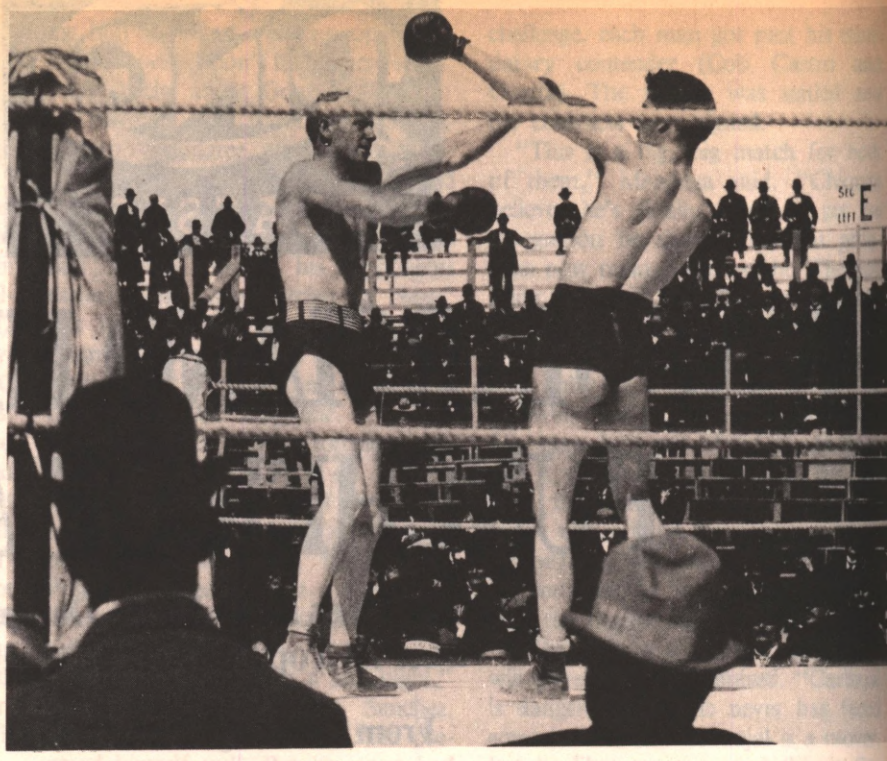
There is no scarcity of candidates. The ones most mentioned are Bob Fitzsimmons, Jack Dempsey, Max Baer, Joe Louis, and Rocky Marciano.

On the basis of comparative records, Marciano would appear to be the selection. In a professional career from 1947 through 1955, the "Brockton Blockbuster" demolished 43 of his 49 opponents for a kayo percentage of approximately .880. He was unbeaten as a professional, and after polishing off Archie Moore in New York in 1955, retired from competition.

Records, however, don't always tell the complete story. This commentator wouldn't rate Marciano as devastating a puncher as either Dempsey or Louis at their peaks. Rocky seldom flattened an opponent with one solid clout.

Much has been made of the lusty right-hander that tumbled Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round of their first title meeting in Philadelphia. As it so happened, Walcott was virtually exhausted at the time, too tired to

Bob Fitzsimmons (left) was a natural middleweight, but in March 1897, he won the world heavyweight title by knocking out Jim Corbett with a hook to the solar plexus. He wasn't strong enough, however, to handle Jim Jeffries, who took the title in Fitz' first defense.



avoid a punch from which he had been getting away all night.

To experienced observers who knew boxing, Walcott was fading from the seventh round on, but kept going with his experience and superior ringcraft.

The return bout in Chicago the following year is best forgotten. Old Joe went down from Rocky's first rush. Although he didn't appear to be seriously hurt, he made only a feeble effort to rise.

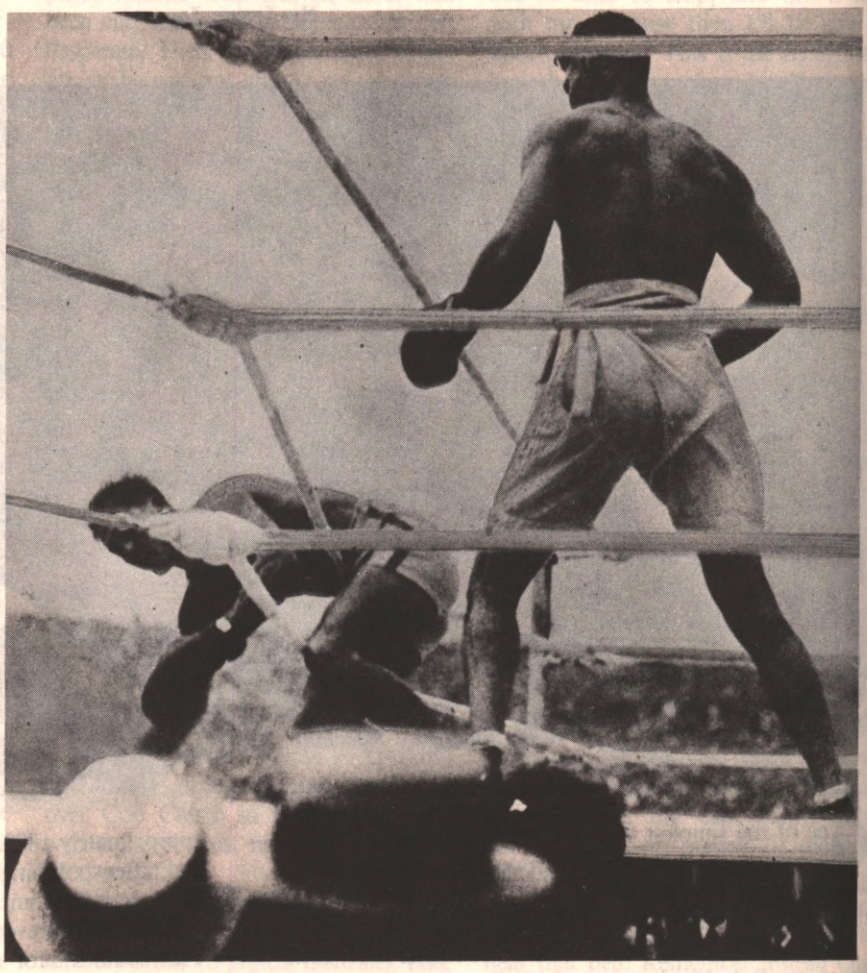
Marciano's success in the ring was attributed to his superb physical condition. Training for a bout, Rocky would hide himself away from civilization for months at a stretch, living the life of a hermit, avoiding any and all distractions. He was no boxer, but with his awkward, cumbersome, free-swinging aggressiveness, he combined strength and stamina to wear down and outlast the opposition.

Almost invariably, Marciano had rough going in the early rounds of his bouts. He usually absorbed tough beatings, but his persistence and durability enabled him to survive the stormy sessions and eventually batter the opposition into defeat.

Marciano was not as rugged as the public was led to believe. During his early years in the ring, his opponents were generally picked carefully, often with caution. Dangerous punchers were studiously avoided. When he finally scaled the heights, the only hard hitters he met—Walcott in their first meeting, and Archie Moore in Rocky's finale—had him down for long counts. And Ezzard Charles made a mess of his features in their second get-together.

For sheer punching power, Joe Louis probably was the all-time tops. Shufflin' Joe packed TNT in either fist, and he accounted for many one- or two-punch knockouts during his spectacular career. When he finally hung up the mittens in 1951, Louis had abbreviated 54 of his 71 professional outings.

The Brown Bomber accounted for the most devastating single punch this commentator can recall when he unloaded one right-hander in the fourth round to wreck the rugged Spanish Basque, Paulino Uzcudun, in Madison Square Garden in 1935.



Perhaps no heavyweight struck with more ferocity than Jack Dempsey, shown crushing light heavyweight champion Georges Carpentier in their July 1921 title fight. Dempsey weighed only 188 pounds, but was enormously strong.

Jack Dempsey, as a rule, was not a one-punch knockout puncher. Manassa Jack specialized in combinations, usually a right to the body, a left hook to the chin, and, as a finisher, a right to the chin. That was the combina-

tion that demolished Fred Fulton in their 1918 clash in Harrison Field, near Newark, New Jersey. The affair lasted only 18 seconds, and put Dempsey in line for his title-winning fray with Jess Willard in Toledo the following year.

One of the most thorough drubbings ever collected by a defending heavyweight champion was the one Willard absorbed in that meeting with Dempsey. The giant Kansan was dropped seven times in the first round, and the battering compelled an exhausted and thoroughly beaten Willard to call it quits in his corner before the start of the fourth frame.

Then, of course, there was Manassa Jack's battle with the Argentine mastodon, Luis Angel Firpo, in New

Has there ever been a title fight beating to match Jack Dempsey's July 1919 annihilation of Jess Willard? Incredibly, Dempsey was outweighed by 58 pounds.

AMERICA FIRST!

New York American

JACK DEMPSEY WINS IN THREE ROUN

WILLARD QUIT TO AVOID PUNISHMENT AFTER WEAK EFFOR

BIG DIRIGIBLE R-34 EXPECTED AT MINEOLA THIS MORN

LORD SUMNER TO PRESIDE AT KAISER'S TRIAL

R-34, HEADED WEST, SIGHTED IN NOVA SCOTIA

Jack Dempsey, the New Champion

BATTERED TO HELPLESSNE IN NINE MINUTES OF FIGH CHAMPION YIELDS HIS C

SOVIETS RULE IN DISTRICT OF

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1970*

Johnny Famechon

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Cassius Clay**, Houston, TX

1. **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY
3. **Sonny Liston**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
7. **Henry Cooper**, England
8. **Al Jones**, Perrine, FL
9. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina
10. **Leotis Martin**, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Bob Foster**, Washington, D.C.

1. **Dick Tiger**, Biafra
2. **Ray Anderson**, Akron, OH
3. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
4. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
5. **Yvan Prebeg**, Yugoslavia
6. **Bob Dunlop**, Australia
7. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
8. **Hal Carroll**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Eddie Avoth**, Wales
10. **Larry Buck**, Seattle, WA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Nino Benvenuti**, Italy

1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
2. **Freddie Little**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
4. **Tom Bogs**, Denmark
5. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
6. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
7. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
8. **Fraser Scott**, Seattle, WA
9. **Carlos Monzon**, Argentina
10. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Jose Napoles**, Mexico

1. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
2. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
5. **Johann Orsolics**, Austria
6. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
7. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
8. **Rodrigo Valdes**, Colombia
9. **Raul Rodriguez**, Mexico
10. **Miguel Berrios**, Puerto Rico

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina

1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
4. **Turk Kamaci**, Austria
5. **German Gastelbondo**, Colombia
6. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
7. **Eugenio Espinoza**, Ecuador
8. **Larry Harding**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Enrique Jana**, Argentina
10. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Mando Ramos**, Long Beach, CA

1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Jaguar Kazikawa**, Japan
4. **Carlos (Teo) Cruz**, Dominican Republic
5. **Arturo Lomeli**, Mexico
6. **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland
7. **Carlos Aro**, Argentina
8. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
9. **Sugar Ramos**, Mexico
10. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Hiroshi Kobayashi**, Japan

1. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
3. **Silvero Ortiz**, Mexico
4. **Yoshiaki Nu[illegible]an**
5. **Alfredo Mar[illegible]uela**
6. **Alton Colter**, [illegible], AZ
7. **Ray Echavarria**, San Jose, CA
8. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
9. **Jose Acosta**, Venezuela
10. **Kenji Iwata**, Japan

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Johnny Famechon**, Australia

1. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
3. **Cruz Marcano**, Venezuela
4. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
5. **Jose Legra**, Spain
6. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
7. **Kuniaki Shibata**, Japan
8. **Jimmy Revie**, England
9. **Dwight Hawkins**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Felipe Torres**, Los Angeles, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico

1. **Alan Rudkin**, England
2. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
3. **Lionel Rose**, Australia
4. **Raul Cruz**, Mexico
5. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
6. **Rudy Alarcon**, Philippines
7. **Kazuyoshi Kanazawa**, Japan
8. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan
9. **Julio Guerrero**, Mexico
10. **Leo Calderon**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Efren (Alacran) Torres**, Mexico

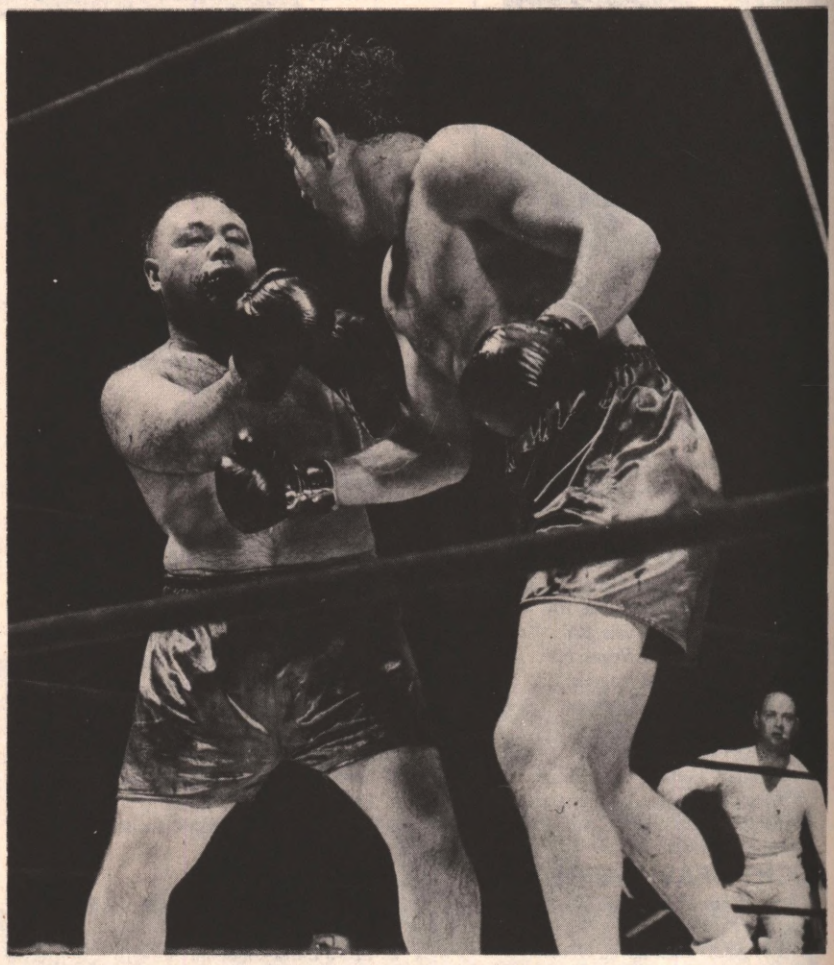
1. **Berkrerk Chartvanchai**, Thailand
2. **Bernabe Villacampo**, Philippines
3. **Susumu Hanagata**, Japan
4. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
5. **Fermin Gomez**, Mexico
6. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua
7. **Jose Luis Cetina**, Mexico
8. **Arturo Hernandez**, Mexico
9. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
10. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand

Max Schmeling was somewhat of a one-dimensional fighter, but as far as dimensions go, his booming right hand was better than most. Pictured: In September 1932, Schmeling crushed blown-up middleweight Mickey Walker in eight rounds. Schmeling's most significant kayo was his June 1936 upset of streaking contender Joe Louis.

York's Polo Grounds in 1923, when he slugged his powerful rival to the canvas five times in the first round and ended the brawl with two more knockdowns in the second.

Gene Tunney can testify amply to Dempsey's punching power. Although well beyond his peak, having lost the championship to Tunney in Philadelphia the previous year, Dempsey revealed he still packed danger in his fists when he battered Tunney to the canvas in the seventh round of their encore in Chicago in 1927. Gene managed to recover and go on to victory, but his unceremonious trip to the canvas dubbed the bout "The Battle Of The Long Count," meaning Tunney was down more than the required 10 seconds before he pulled himself to his feet.

Although he was not regarded as a particularly hard hitter, relying mainly upon speed and cleverness to carry him through, Tunney was not precisely a powderpuff puncher, either. He had a jolting left jab that paved the way to decisive victory, and a one-two combination that accounted for many a knockout. Among his victims were quite a few heavyweights and light heavyweights who never before had been halted.



Max Baer was a gifted heavyweight who lacked commitment. In July 1940, "Madcap Max" unleashed his natural power against Tony Galento and scored a bloody eighth-round kayo. It was the penultimate victory of his career.

Max Baer was a tremendous clouter with either hand, but "Madcap Max" failed to take his adopted profession as seriously as he should have. On the few occasions when he did settle down to strict business, the "Livermore Larruper" amply demonstrated his punching power, and he flattened many an opponent.

Baer's main performance, of course, was when he accounted for 11 knockdowns in stopping the Italian giant, Primo Carnera, in 11 rounds, for the championship in Long Island City in 1934.

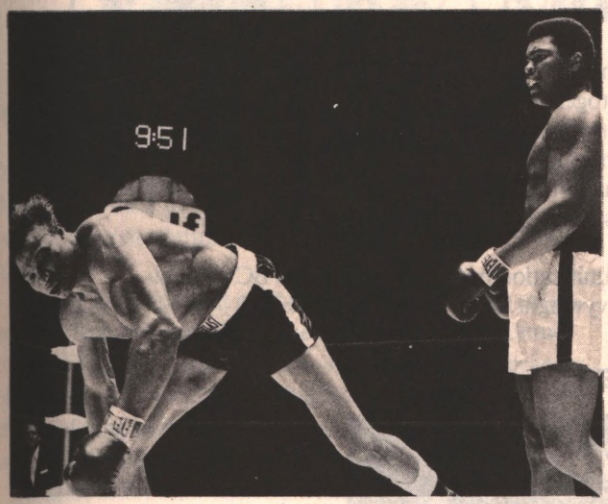
Max Schmeling, who held the title from 1930 to 1932,

and who stopped Louis in 1936, possessed one of the hardest rights in ring annals.

In recent years the most prodigious hitter the heavyweight division has known has been Charles "Sonny" Liston, whose record to date embraces 36 knockouts in an even 50 professional starts. Two of them were one-rounders, both over Floyd Patterson in title frays.

Clay was well on his way to establishing something of a kayo record until his unfortunate experience with federal authorities, which has kept him out of competition since 1967. After acquiring Olympic light heavyweight laurels in Rome in 1960, Clay turned professional the following year and had halted 23 of his 29 opponents, eight of them in championship bouts, before his draft trouble hit him.

Clay is not regarded as a particularly dangerous puncher, but he's a sharp hitter, invariably depending upon speed and skill to befuddle his opponents until he sets them up for the finishing blow.



Muhammad Ali was brilliant in stopping Cleveland Williams in November 1966. Hardly a crushing hitter, he blinded opponents with punches in bunches.

Going back through the years to the Gay '90s, and the early years of the 20th century, one must reckon with Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Jeffries, and Jack Johnson.

Of the three, Fitz, although actually little more than a middleweight, was the most solid socker, particularly with a left hook. That was the punch that won the heavyweight title for him when it sunk into Jim Corbett's solar plexus in Carson City, Nevada, in 1897.

That hook also disposed of such prominent big ones as Tom Sharkey and Gus Rhulin, but availed him little in two losing battles with Jeffries, first in Coney Island in 1897, then in San Francisco in 1902.

Jeffries was not a knockout artist in the true sense of the word. Jim was strong and durable, and usually won his fights by outlasting his opponents, much as Marciano did in more recent years. Jeff did have one effective punch, however, and that was a left hook.

Jack Johnson was not noted as a particularly lusty clouter. He relied mainly on his remarkable defensive skill, and what knockouts he registered generally were of the technical variety, the bouts being stopped when opponents were punched into exhaustion.

Trying to list the six all-time heaviest hitters among the heavyweight champions is no simple assignment, but this commentator, in a purely personal opinion, ranks them in this order:

1. Joe Louis 2. Jack Dempsey 3. Max Baer 4. Rocky Marciano 5. Bob Fitzsimmons 6. Cassius Clay. ■

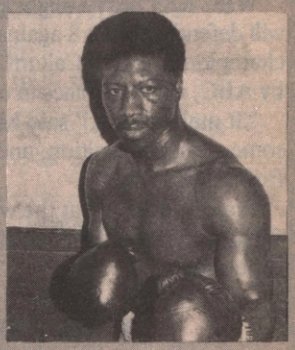
THE RING, May 1948

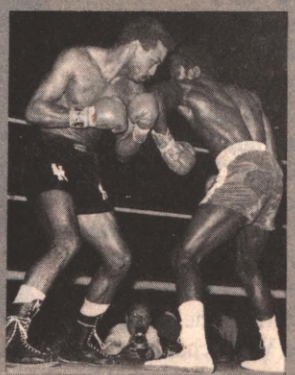
The Cover: Famed artist LeRoy Neiman splashes his colors to create a striking cover of heavyweight hitters, including Joe Frazier and Joe Louis. Neiman was a regular contributor to *The Ring*. His first cover was Muhammad Ali for the December 1966 issue.

The "Other" Champ: Dave Kindred profiles heavyweight champion Jimmy Ellis, who, in winning the WBA tournament, failed to gain the respect of boxing insiders. Ellis is viewed as the world's third best heavyweight, behind New York State champion Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, who remains in exile.

A Promoter's Promoter: In a glowing tribute, Don Fraser celebrates the career of West Coast promoter George Parnassus. Fraser describes the 74-year-old Parnassus as "the best-known and most successful promoter in the game today." "The Golden Greek," who began by promoting Ceferino Garcia in 1935, runs his major promotions at the Fabulous Forum.

A Rising Contender: Who says world light heavyweight champion Bob Foster has no one to fight? According to a story by Fred Eisenstadt, 175-pound contender Jimmy Dupree is a legitimate title threat. Dupree's most recent triumph: a 10th-round stoppage of veteran Eddie "Bossman" Jones.



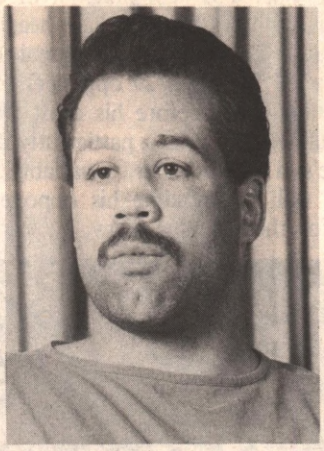


Fighter Of The Month: The winner is world welterweight champion Jose "Mantequilla" Napoles, who proved his mettle by scoring a one-sided 15-round decision over former champion Emile Griffith at the Fabulous Forum. Among those impressed by Napoles' performance was former middleweight champion Rocky Graziano, who said, "This guy is one helluva fighter."

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood

CZYZ vs. HEARNS?



Czyz: Looking to make a hit

Is Bobby Czyz ever going to again defend the WBA cruiserweight title? Is Thomas Hearns ever going to fight again? Czyz, who last fought in May 1992, doesn't hide the fact that he'd rather not face his mandatory challenger, Orlin Norris. He's still hoping for a big-money fight with Hearns. "The Hit Man," recovering from hand surgery, wants the fight, too, so what's the problem?

Says Hearns' former mentor, Emanuel Steward, "I've been trying to help Tommy put together the fight. I want to help him as a friend. It's the only fight I want him to have. The problem's money. Tommy still wants $2-million, $2½-million, and Bobby wants $1-million, $1½-million. It's just not that marketable a fight."

The options: For Czyz, a rumored unification bout in Europe vs. WBC champion Anaclet Wamba, or a jump to heavyweight. For Hearns, retirement.

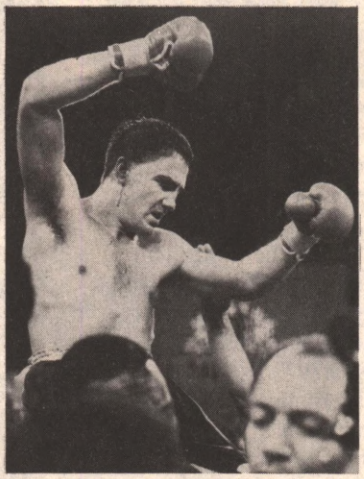
UPDATE FROM DOWN UNDER

International agent Don Majeski supplied us with the latest on Australia's two most accomplished fighters. Former triple-crown champion Jeff Fenech, inactive since breaking his sternum during a late-1992 sparring session with junior welterweight contender Kostya Tszyu, may need surgery. The earliest he'll return to the ring will be May or June.

WBC light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding will defend on May 8 against former two-division champion Mike McCallum. The bout, to be televised by ABC, will take place in either England or France.

"It makes sense," said Majeski. "Harding needs some name recognition, and McCallum will be trying for his third title."

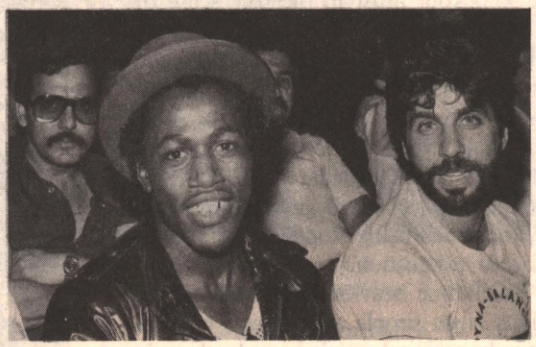
Majeski added that the winner may defend against WBC super middleweight champion Nigel Benn in September.



Harding: Taking on "The Bodysnatcher"

LISTEN UP

Assuming **Evander Holyfield** does indeed return to the ring, he won't have to wait too long for another title try. As soon as WBC champion **Lennox Lewis** successfully defends against mandatory challenger **Tony Tucker**, Holyfield should jump to number one in the ratings of both the WBA and WBC . . . Perennial junior welterweight contender **Terrence Alli** also figures to benefit from the ratings game. Assuming WBC champion **Julio Cesar Chavez** defeats **Greg Haugen**, Alli will become the top-rated contender of all three organizations. His manager, **Jimmy Glenn**, says he'll most likely aim for Chavez. "We're sitting down with **Don King** now," he told *The Ring*. "We think we can get the next shot after Haugen, and we think we can beat Chavez." ■



Alli: Aiming for Chavez

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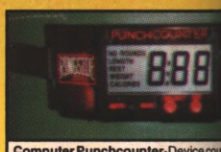

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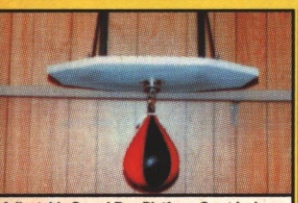

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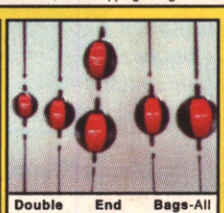

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